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Deputy Mayor pulls from election race page 2 Irondale Church page 12 Minden portrait artist page 13

Field of dreams
A young baseball player catches a ball during the annual Dawson Hamilton Memorial Baseball Tournament in Minden this past weekend. For more photos, see inside this edition. /TIM YANO staff photographer

MH council shelves strategic plan

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Every community needs an clear vision of its future.

That was the plan for the Five Year Strategic Plan discussed at the Minden Hills council meeting held on Thursday, July 23.

"This has been on our books for a long period of time," opened Minden Hills CAO Cynthia Fletcher. "This is really the culmination of a lot of work and broad consultation with our community members, with council members, with staff, and it is exciting to have a high level guiding document for the township."

The purpose of the strategic plan is to identify areas of focus and to assist with staff in their recommendations that staff will bring to council. Ultimately, the strategic plan envisions the future of Minden Hills and what steps are needed using Minden Hills' resources and investments available.

With adoption of the plan, staff will create annual work plans around the priority areas of focus and incorporate ideas heard during the engagement focus.

"The plan includes a vision which is sort of that aspirational picture of how we want to be viewed as a township," said Fletcher. "The mission is really [outlining priorities for] how we are going to do our work and we have outlined a set of values that really speak to character and outline how we will engage with each other."

Karen Jones, of Karen Jones Consulting, was hired to create and present the strategic plan to council. The plan was created after over 400 survey responses, community engagement meetings, public sessions, and one on one consultation with residents, organizations and business owners.

Infrastructure was the highest priority area, with economic stability, leadership, environmental stewardship, and fiscal responsibility being identified as the highest priorities.

A large portion of respondents indicated that communication by the township is important to them. This relates to clarity of decisions and explanations as to why decisions are made.

Jones said Minden Hills' strengths include its sense of community, natural assets, and cultural identity.

"The opportunities are encouraging because they aren't about reinvesting in Minden Hills," said Jones. "They really are about building on what already exists. There is a strong foundation. There is so much room for potential."

The vision presented was "Minden Hills is a progressive, healthy, and welcoming community where everyone thrives."

The mission includes leading with clarity, delivering quality services, and supporting balanced growth that enhances quality of life and strengthens the community of Minden Hills.

The core values identified included mutual trust and respect, integrity, compassion and teamwork, and

see CURRENT page 14

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Schell shifts gears; officially not running for council

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

The race for municipal leadership in Minden is suddenly going to look a little different this fall.

On July 23, Minden Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell officially announced that she would be pulling her name from the election race.

"This is, without question, one of the hardest decisions I have ever made," said Schell. "After 20 years of serving on Minden Hills council, I had hoped to continue working on behalf of this community that I love."

Schell first joined municipal government in 2006. She has served as deputy mayor for multiple consecutive terms, landing her on both Minden council, as well as County council. In spring of this year, Schell announced her final run in the role, but personal circumstances have led to the longtime deputy pulling her name from the race.

"Walking away from something that has been such a significant part of my life is incredibly painful," said Schell. "I always hoped I would know when it was time to close this chapter, and while I wish the circumstances were different, I know in my heart that this is the right decision."

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell has been in the role for two decades, and announced she would be pulling her name from the race this fall. /FILE

The deputy mayor cited health concerns as her reason for shifting gears, in a heartfelt message shared on the professional Facebook page. "My health needs to come first," she said, "and I owe it to myself and to those I love to give it the attention it deserves."

Schell went on to reflect on her years on council. With multiple highs and lows taking place in Minden Hills during her tenure, she looked back on her municipal time with pride, citing it as, "the privilege of a lifetime."

"I am deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in me over the past two decades," Schell continued. "Together, we have celebrated successes, faced challenges, and worked to make our community stronger. I will always be proud of what we have accomplished together."

There are currently four names in the running for mayor of Minden Hills, including Bob Carter, Pam Sayne, Tammy McKelvey, and Pat Kitcheman. Schell was up against current councillor Ivan Ingram for the role of deputy mayor, with the candidate nominations open until Aug. 21. With Schell pulling out of the race, Ingram is running unopposed.

"I would like to sincerely thank my family, friends, supporters, fellow members of council, Township staff, volunteers, and, most importantly, the residents of Minden Hills for your encouragement, kindness, and confidence throughout my years in public service," said Schell. "Although I am stepping away from elected office, my love for this community remains as strong as ever. I wish all of the candidates the very best in the upcoming election and look forward to seeing Minden Hills continue to thrive."

The Ontario municipal election is set for Oct. 26, 2026.

Seeking support for International Overdose Awareness Day

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

25 years on, and still needed.

That's the messaging that's been shared through Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy's Ashley Smoke, during last Wednesday's regular meeting of County council.

"Together we work to reduce substance related harms," she said, "and improve the health and well-being of our communities through collaboration, education, and awareness raising."

Smoke had come to council with a request for an official day of proclamation, seeking Aug. 31 to be identified as International Overdose Awareness Day.

"Over the last 20 years drug overdose deaths have increased significantly in many parts of the world, predominantly driven by the effects of opioids, often in combination with other drugs including benzodiazepines, stimulants and alcohol," said the Awareness Day website. "The proliferation of dangerous novel substances has heightened the public health risk faced by countries around the globe."

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the estimated number of people using opioids globally has doubled from 26-36 million people in 2010, to 61.3 million in 2020.

"We recognize that no single organization can address this issue alone," said Smoke, "and that building healthier communities requires compassion, partnership, and a shared commitment to supporting people where they're at."

International Overdose Awareness Day is celebrated annually on Aug. 31, and is the largest campaign dedicated to ending overdoses globally. The event was created in Melbourne, Australia, in 2001, this year marks the campaign's 25th anniversary.

Smoke noted the "difficult reality" of this day still being relevant and recognized, 25 years in. "Overdose continues to affect families, communities across Canada, including here in Haliburton County,"said Smoke. "But they also remind us that overdose is preventable. We know how to reduce risks and save lives."

Smoke shared that overdose is often seen as an issue impacting larger city centres, as opposed to rural communities. "But we know that's not a reality," she said. "Rural communities like Haliburton are affected as well, and they often face additional challenges such as greater distances to services, limited transportation, and fewer local supports."

From the offices of the chief coroner, 20 people died from opioid toxicity in Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge public health division in 2025. So far, in 2026, between January to May, that number has jumped to 31 deaths.

"Behind every one of these statistics is a person who mattered," said Smoke. "A child, parent, sibling, friend, neighbour, colleague, or loved one."

While Smoke noted that the request for proclamation may seem simple, the action sends a powerful message to the community. "By proclaiming Aug. 31 as International Overdose Awareness Day, Haliburton County joins communities across Canada and around the world in recognizing that every life has value, and that overdose affects us all."

Councillor Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, noted that she recognizes that this a starting point, and hopes to take action from this initiative.

"While overdose continues to impact communities, we know that these deaths are not inevitable," said Smoke. "By working together, supporting one another, and continuing to build communities rooted in dignity, respect, and evidence-informed action, we can create a future where this day is no longer needed."

County council officially proclaimed Aug. 31, 2026, as International Overdose Awareness Day in Haliburton County.

County seeks funding to go green

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

With ongoing efforts to go green wherever possible, the County of Haliburton is seeking options for how they can finance their ongoing environmental initiatives.

During last Wednesday's regular meeting of County council, deputy treasurer Tanya Rosenberg brought forward a report outlining next steps for pursuing an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for their Green Municipal Fund Sustainable Municipal Buildings Program. The funding would be used to complete the Pathway to Net-Zero: Haliburton County Building Decarbonization Feasibility Study, according to the report.

The feasibility study is an opportunity to develop a long-term strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from County-owned buildings, while improving operational efficiency and protecting municipal infrastructure investments, noted Rosenberg.

To access the study, there is a price tag of $87,741.50. The County is requesting $43,870.75 through the Sustainable Municipal Buildings program, and the remaining municipal contribution of $43,870.75 will be funded 50 per cent through the patrol yard reserve, and 50 per cent through the ambulance reserve.

The sites in question for the study include the County Administrative Office at 11 Newcastle Street in Minden, the Roads Patrol Yard #1 located at 1516 Ingoldsby Road, the Haliburton Emergency Medical Services Base at 6 South Street in Haliburton, and the Tory Hill Paramedic Station.

The comprehensive feasibility study will evaluate retrofit options for the four facilities, which together account for more than 50 per cent of corporate building greenhouse gas emissions for the County of Haliburton.

Council approved moving ahead with applying for funding for the study, as it aligns with the County's Corporate Climate Action Plan by supporting initiatives that incorporate low-carbon technologies into municipal buildings, while improving climate resilience and reducing long-term operating costs.

A door for everyone; talks of No Wrong Door underway

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

In a rural community, there are bound to be different challenges than that of an urban centre.

During last Tuesday's regular meeting of County council, Andrew Hodson, Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) advisory committee chair, brought a number of these challenges to the table, through his presentation on the No Wrong Door Collaborative Event that took place in April of this year.

Hodson jumped right into the factors present in service delivery in a rural community, including small population, high levels of poverty, higher cost of living, lack of adequate and affordable housing, a lack of dedicated facilities for mental health, substance use, or rehabilitation, no public transportation, and limited cell/internet service.

"This won't be a surprise to the people assembled in this room," said Hodson. "We're sort of pushing the ball uphill in many ways in Haliburton County in terms of the formalized services that are present in most larger urban centres."

But this may not be a bad thing. "Our lack of resources paradoxically became our strength over the years," said Hodson. "Because we didn't have so many of those formalized services, we collaborated at a very intensive level to overcome some of these struggles."

This was the start of the No Wrong Door movement. "If you were helping someone in crisis, you had a clear pathway to connect them with support," said Hodson. "And if you were the person in crisis, which is already a scary, painful place to be, you didn't have to worry about the complexities of this bureaucratic system floating around."

Some key elements that emerged from the initiative included quick response times, collaboration on particular cases, a focus on reducing barriers for clients and those in need, and understanding of referral pathways, and how to connect clients to additional resources.

Hodson dove into the formal definition of 'crisis' that is used in this context. "Crisis is a really subjective experience at the heart of it," he explained. "So, really, it's when an individual's usual coping mechanisms, the things they typically go to when they're feeling overwhelmed, aren't sufficient to get them through a period of stress."

By this definition, Hodson noted that 'crisis' applies to many more individuals. "It applies to all of us," he said. "You don't need to have a mental health condition to potentially be in crisis, you can be someone who is overwhelmed by your circumstances at the time."

In 2023, the local crisis provider, the Canadian Mental Health Association, disbanded the Four-County Crisis program, which served custom care to locals in various states of crisis. This move ended the local crisis line that was in place, and integrated into a national suicide line.

While there is value to the national line, Hodson noted that there was a sudden gap in hyper-local care, with a specific focus on suicide as opposed to the broader umbrella of crisis.

With the introduction of the No Wrong Door Hub, any front-facing individuals, whether that be in food banks, service centres, churches, or mental health centres, could direct those in crisis to the appropriate resource via the universal hub.

"People could flow in from any access point at all," said Hodson, "and then when they're at the centre, those experts can pull in the relevant pieces to help the people in the centre."

As the practice continued, Hodson noted that the system collapsed, citing concerns that frontline workers were referencing clients getting lost in the system.

Through Arising Collective, the No Wrong Door model is exploring options for which the program can be revitalized.

During their session in April at the Minden Community Centre, over 70 individuals joined, through different roles at agencies, including front-line staff, service delivery, management, and leadership.

Based on their findings from the day, there are strong relationships and connections in the community, with a willingness to be creative, and meeting clients where they are at.

When it comes to challenges around implementing the No Wrong Door approach once again, insight around referral processes, interagency collaboration, intakes, accessibility of services, and a general knowledge of understanding around who does what, were identified as red flags.

"We really felt that there were two main themes that came through," said Heather Reid, a consultant with Arising Collective. "One was to look at how do we start creating supportive policy and procedure to move towards a No Wrong Door approach?"

Reid noted that the second theme was strengthening interagency trust and relationships. "Addressing the reality that there's a whole bunch of new faces serving community mental health," she said, "and how do we as a community inform them about the special things in Haliburton and what it's like to work here."

> ***"We're sort of pushing the ball uphill in many ways in Haliburton County in terms of the formalized services that are present in most larger urban centres.***
>
> –Andrew Hodson, Community Safety and Well–Being

Hodson noted that every time there is a failure in addressing a situation of crisis, it downloads the responsibility to emergency services, as opposed to the more targeted approach of designating individual concerns to specialized support.

"We're trying to be proactive rather than reactive," said Hodson, "and I think that's how crisis systems work the best."

Councillor Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, noted that she recently met with the new property owners of the former Frost Centre in Algonquin Highlands, who have openly shared their goals of creating a mental health facility at the site.

While it's not on the trajectory to becoming a grassroots organization, she noted their priorities of partnering with Haliburton Highlands Health Services to offer mental health support.

"Everything flows into our mental health," said Hodson, "and everything flows back into our mental health. Looking at things as comprehensively as possible, it's vital, it's critical."

"The only solution that is going to work in Haliburton, has to be born in Haliburton," said Councillor Jennifer Dailloux, deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands. "There is no system anywhere else that I have seen in southern Ontario or northern Ontario that would easily cut and paste in Haliburton. We are just too different … something like No Wrong Door, born in Haliburton, is the only way we're going to make a difference here."

Housing solutions for physician recruitment

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

While ongoing initiatives to recruit physicians to Haliburton County are well underway, one piece of the puzzle is access to housing.

Since 2022, the County of Haliburton has been leasing 1007 Deer Point Lane for the purpose of physician recruitment, with a rent price of $2,200 per month.

During last Wednesday's regular meeting of County council, Wendy Welch, the physician recruitment coordinator for the County, brought forward a report noting that the property owners of the site are seeking an increase in their rent.

With an increase of $150 for a total of $2,350 per month, Welch noted that there are no additional fees, as the owners cover costs for snow removal and cleaning.

"Staff have a good and co-operative relationship with the property owners," said Welch in her report to council. "With the exception of slow internet speed in that area, staff receive positive feedback from physicians who stay at this property."

So far, there have been 102-night stays this year, with a projection that there will be 100 per cent usage for the majority of 2026, associated with a local family physician living there until they receive permanent residency, and can purchase their own home.

"I'm really happy to support this," said Councillor Jennifer Dailloux, the deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands. "I think the more we can do to bring in new faces into the county it's great, and it's a small expense given the benefit that comes in."

Council approved the lease renewal for the remainder of the year.

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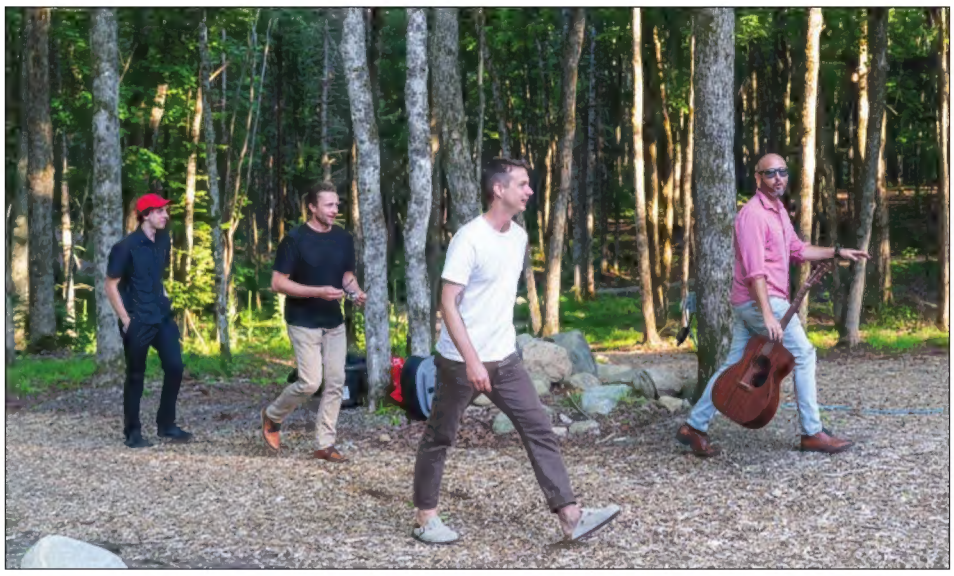
Tunes and trees

Benton Brown and the Lowdown presented a memorable evening at Fort Treehouses's Hydda venue last Thursday. The musical act offered a concert that drew crowds of all ages, with the sounds bouncing off the treehouses on-site. The venue offers a wine and coffee bar, as well as snacks and cocktails for those visiting. /TIM YANO staff photographer



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Boots and beats; line dancing at the Legion

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Line dancing is scheduled for weekly sessions throughout the summer in an effort to get more people interested in the experience. /IVY KATZ staff

While Karley Stevenson may not consider herself musically inclined, she knows that dance flows through her spirit and soul.

Growing up in Alberta, Stevenson was taught country dancing right from elementary school, so when she moved to Ontario as an adult, its absence was noted.

Three years ago, when she returned to the west for Christmas, she found her dancing boots. "And I went to my mom's and I just started crying," Stevenson recalled, "I had missed dancing so much."

While Stevenson noted that she did not introduce line dancing to the area, she started offering the program in the evenings, to allow for a broader audience to access the classes. "People are hooked right away," she said, "it's not just dancing, you're learning at the same time."

Line dancing is a type of choreographed dance where individuals follow the same steps and positions along with music. It's rising popularity through varying generations can be credited to social media, with viral videos popping up from all over the world showing the uniform dances.

"It uses your brain, your mental capacity, plus the physical exercise, and of course the social benefits," said Stevenson. "There are studies done on this dance and it's just amazing."

With the multi-faceted benefits, Stevenson has committed to offering weekly sessions for those interested. She's hosting them at the Haliburton Legion on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with anyone and everyone welcome to come lace up their boots.

But don't worry, boots aren't a requirement. Any sort of closed-toed shoe will do; something that is comfortable without being too slippery. Stevenson says she sees a regular average of 15 to 30 participants each week. "We try to accommodate everyone," she said, noting that some attendees are locals, while others come by in the summer months during their seasonal cottage stays.

On top of the regular, weekly sessions, Stevenson offers pop-ups and events with line dancing, encouraging those curious in the sport to try it out.

For more information and to book a line dancing lesson, visit always.in.boots on Instagram, or email Stevenson at always.in.boots.cd@gmail.com.

"It's not about perfecting every dance," said Stevenson, "it's about exercising and meeting new people and just having fun. And as an added bonus, eventually, you get the hang of it."

Too many cooks in the kitchen

Set in 1932, the Highlands Summer Festival's *Too Many Cooks* kicked off on July 27, and has a five-show run, including one matinee. With rum-running, gangsters, chefs, and one quirky Mountie, the laugh-out-loud show is the final play of the Festival's season. Tickets can be purchased at ww.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca. /Photos submitted by Wendy Evenden

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Wrong door

WHEN DID things get so complicated?

This past week, through the Community Safety and Well-being plan, a group of dedicated individuals brought a report to County council, outlining the importance of the No Wrong Door approach.

Once used years ago, the initiative was developed to bypass the red tape of bureaucracy, and offer a helping hand to anyone in a state of crisis.

And as was outlined in the presentation, crisis doesn't just mean sirens and breakdowns. It can refer to anyone whose coping mechanisms aren't sufficient for the problem they are navigating.

And if that's the definition, we've all been in a state of crisis before.

No Wrong Door was a concept that humanized the clinically developed approach to community support.

And I am not an expert on the sociological chapters of human history, but mental health seems to have gone from something that was seen as very taboo (closed door), to something that you spoke to your friends and neighbours about (open door), to an era of red tape and waitlists (wrong door), and finally, back to the beginning of the cycle (closed door).

No one is talking, because no one knows where to turn. We've done a full circle, causing individuals in crisis to fend for themselves in the shadows of their own demons.

No Wrong Door was introduced in an effort to allow anyone looking for support to open any door, and be met with a helping hand.

That hand would then connect to perhaps another hand, then another, creating a chain of compassion to carry those in crisis.

While I was listening to the presentation, all I could think about was how things are so complicated.

The organizers behind No Wrong Door were simply expressing empathy, noting that quite literally every individual is deserving of dignity, support, and resources, instead of a door slammed in their face; a redirection, a shove of responsibilities.

I felt this way when I worked for a local municipal township. When did things get so complicated? I asked myself that, every single day.

Emily Stonehouse

Editorial

And while it's been years since I've dabbled in local politics, one of the core reasons I left was because I felt my sense of compassion waning. I started to look at situations and presentations through a lens marred by red tape. Dreams and aspirations brought to me by those who didn't understand the cobwebs in our closets would be shut down before they could ever take off. Each project needed criteria, composition, complications.

And through that, we lost the compassion, the care, the community.

I've seen initiatives take off at municipal levels since my departure that has shown me that some of the red tape has been torn down, but I remain hopeful that the many rights and wrongs and zigs and zags can be further simplified for those in need.

Things don't need to be complicated. I understand that there is a time and place for liability and logistics, but at the end of the day, no one should be told they're at the wrong door. No one should be someone else's problem, someone else's project.

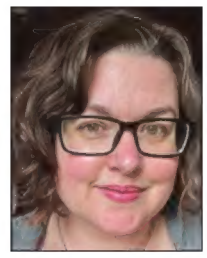
Because we're all human.

And every door should be available, for whoever needs a helping hand.

Unwanted features

A FEW years ago I set my Instagram profile to private. It was around the time that AI generated images really started to kick off with products like Midjourney and DALL-E, and news articles started to come out with stories about images from the internet being scraped to train models – a practice that made me feel uneasy.

Setting my profile to private also meant that when Meta's latest feature, Muse, was set to launch, I was already left out of the roll-out because it was for public accounts only. Muse would have allowed users to use AI to modify photos from any public account without notifying the originator that their image was being used.



Erin Kernohan-Berning

Humans & Technology

There was a process to disable Muse, which was circulated on Instagram by tech news outlets like TechCrunch and Wired. Tucked within a submenu titled "Sharing and reuse" users could toggle off "Allow people to reuse your content on Instagram and with AI features at Meta" and "Allow people to create and reuse your original audio on Meta AI." This could include your profile photo (so, your likeness) and voice (via videos you've uploaded).

There was enough backlash from users that Meta removed Muse after only a few days, with Meta saying they "missed the mark." There have already been numerous instances where AI image generators integrated with social media have been used to create images for the purposes of cyberbullying, as well as for creating non-consensual sexual imagery – Grok, on the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, is a particularly vile example of how the technology has been used for abusive ends.

The other issue with Muse was that whether you wanted your photos used or not, if your account was set to public, the feature was automatically enabled. This has been a long-standing strategy by Meta (and the tech industry in general) to push users to new features and services. Rather than having users actively say, "yes, I want to use this new feature," companies simply implement them and it's up to us to toggle them off.

The opt-out over opt-in approach can come from a legitimate technical need. If we are using a platform that requires certain permissions from us to even operate, opting into every single feature could affect functionality. But for add-ons like Muse that are a departure from a platform's purported core function, allowing users to review and enable those features as they like should be the norm. I might understand that sharing my photos publicly comes with a certain loss of control over them, but 15 years ago that didn't mean the platform I shared them on was actively facilitating the ability of another user to turn them into something else entirely. Today, a simple selfie can be manipulated and shared with just a few taps without my consent or knowledge.

It's not just social media where we can find ourselves unknowingly adopting features that may be problematic. *A Gamer's Nexus* review of certain LG monitors found that upon being plugged into a computer, Windows Update would install a program that served up advertising without permission from the user. Peripherals using Windows Update to download software to make a device function properly is a legitimate use of that feature. Using it to stealthily install an app on your computer to pop-up ads based on data you didn't explicitly agree to share is, at the very least, shady.

Some smart TVs add a bizarre twist to all this. In the same *Gamer's Nexus* report, it was pointed out that buried within the terms of use for certain models of LG smart TVs is a consent requirement for owners to inform anyone in the vicinity of the TV that their voice may be recorded for their AI-based services. Not only has a feature been enabled without necessarily being obvious to the user, they are also put in a position of responsibility to gather the consent of others while their own consent is being assumed. Consumer Reports has provided some instructions for disabling these features in a variety of smart TV brands (LG is not alone) on their website.

How to balance changes in technology with user consent has always been a bit of a tricky thing. But with AI being integrated into just about everything, and seemingly requiring bigger and bigger tradeoffs, that balance is shifting increasingly in favour of the tech company rather than the user. That makes it very important to understand what those tradeoffs are, and how to disable the features you don't want, if you can. Before you click agree on that Terms of Service, or scroll past that, "check out this new feature," announcement, take the time to read it so you know what you are agreeing to.

points of view

Passwords

ON THE weekend, I delivered a container of gas to my cousin who was cottaging nearby and was in the process of running out of gas for his outboard motor. Doing him this little favour made sense since I was going there anyways, and I was a lot closer to the gas station than he was. Or so I told him.

The truth is he was doing me a huge favour since that container I gave him was the one I use for filling up the lawn mower. And this selfless act prevented me from cutting the grass this weekend.

In any case, when I gave him the gas, he promised to pay me for it. But I told him not to worry about it, since it was only three litres, and what's 56 dollars between friends.

Nevertheless, he wanted to pay me, but did not have cash.

So, he told me he would e-transfer me the money, and I told him this was not required.

I know what you are thinking, but I assure you I am not too old to understand e-transfers. I have kids and grandchildren.

But what I am too old for is passwords – and every time someone sends me an e-transfer I have to figure out the password, since I am not permitted to use auto-deposit because I have competing bank accounts.

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

The real issue is that my level of password expertise stopped in about 1976. Back then passwords worked something like this: You sat on a park bench, looking inconspicuous, while feeding pigeons. Then another person wearing a fedora and trench coat and carrying a newspaper would sit beside you. They would then open their newspaper so their face was hidden, and whisper conspiratorially, "The rain in Barcelona is warm in the summer?"

To which you would respond, "But the birds still poop on the statues."

At this point, the person you were speaking to would fold up his newspaper, shake his head, and quickly walk away.

And it was only after he was long gone that you remembered the correct response was, "Yet the pigeons still fly over the village square."

All this is to demonstrate that even back then I was not good with passwords.

That's why it should come as no surprise that the money my cousin e-transferred me for the gas is still out there in a holding pattern in cyberspace.

You see, he did not tell me the password. All he sent was the security question that I was supposed to figure out the answer to. The question was "What is the gas for?"

My first attempt was "But the birds still poop on the statues."

Between you and me, I'm starting to believe that this is never the correct response.

I then tried, "For the boat", followed by "For the outboard," followed by, "For the outboard motor that is attached to the boat."

It turned out that none of these were correct.

So, I cheated and texted my cousin by asking him to divulge the password. He replied, "I think it was 'fishing' or 'fly fishing.'"

It turns out this password thing might be a family trait, because I tried every incarnation of those words with and without capital letters, and not one of them worked.

So, right now that money sits in limbo, and eventually, it will return to my cousin's account, since it will remain unclaimed. In the meantime, however, the banks will use it to make more money.

Worse still, Jenn's now talking about getting a cordless electric lawn mower …

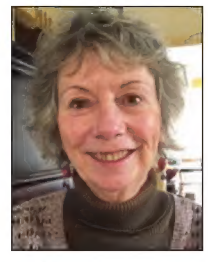
pic *of the* past

Aileen Moore informs us the names of the boys are: Keith Newbatt, Jack Bessie, unknown, Pat Moore and Grey Sisson. If anyone knows the name of the third boy in the photo, please send it to emily@haliburtonpress.com so we can update our archives accordingly. /FILE

Barefoot

YOU RUN through the forest like a wild creature, dodging roots and rocks as you make your way to the destination. And there it is: a small waterfall sparkling between sun and shadow.

It was the only way to travel across country in the summer. Shoe-less. Brown toes able to grip slippery river rocks where no shoe or sandal would dare to go. Feeling the soft comfort of moss that seemed to invite a lie down and nap. Or the delicious squish of swamp mud as it oozed between those same brown toes while young eyes search for bull frogs.



Our road Down

Sharon Lynch

Here there were no concerns about clean versus dirty, soft versus hard because when you go barefoot, you accept it all. And the longer the summer continues, the tougher your feet become. At first, the dead grasses from last year are stiff and crunchy underfoot in the big open field behind the shed. But you persevere and continue to walk, unintimidated by their harsh threats. You know soon your soles will be like seasoned leather and you'll fly through the field in various pursuits.

With experience you learn what river rocks are unpredictably wobbly or where the scotch thistles like to hide. If your feet match the black soil in mother's garden, well no matter because a walk in the early morning dew does a pretty good clean-up job. Now 'wipe your feet' has a whole new meaning when you are about to enter the kitchen.

Going into town on shopping day requires sandals, those confining, buckled contraptions that leave your feet screaming for release. But it is merely temporary. Once back at the lake, you can almost hear the joyful shouts of returning freedom and connection to all that is real and natural.

Behind the shed the mid-summer grasses grow smooth and tall, waving their thanks to the breezes as they show off their magnificent abundance.

Now passing through these green crowds is almost like being in the river. They glide across your toes and all the way up to your knees. Sometimes you have to pick out wayward blades that fell in love and refused to leave the space between your toes.

Over at the lake the sandy underwater is silky and cool after a tramp through the bush. With each slow-motion step, you can feel the lake softly smoothing those city callouses. And if you stand still for a minute or two and look down, you'll see passing minnows pause to look at these things humans call feet.

When you decide it's time to explore the other side of the river, careful progress is required as you make your way over unpredictable terrain. Slick in one spot, sharp and tricky in another, the water passes over the rocks in its rush downstream. But if you trust your footing and know the strength of unleashed toes, you will be fine. And returning after checking out the opposite shore results in a satisfied feeling of accomplishment. Another challenge met with bare feet.

letters to the editor

Celebrating Minden flowers

To the Editor,

I was at the Minden Legion today and took pictures of the flowers there. The Minden Horticultural Society has done so much good work to beautify our town and the flower beds at the Legion are a lovely example of their efforts.

Mickey Bonham,
Minden

Hats for all ages

To the Editor,

Thank you to the *Haliburton Echo* for printing photos of our annual Gigantic Penny Raffle, including some of the fancy hats in the hat parade. Since 2013, as the Mad Hatter, I have enjoyed putting on free hat decorating to encourage people to explore their creative side.

I'm pleased to announce that the Wilberforce Fair is giving me space to do a similar crafting event. This one features masks. It takes place on Saturday August 8, in the lobby of the Wilberforce Arena, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.. The mask forms and all decorations are provided free, but a fair admission of Adults $10, Teens (13 to 17) $5, 12 and under FREE is required. You can find out more about the other exciting activities happening at the Fair on their website at wilberforcefair.com.

I look forward to seeing lots of children and adults concocting amazing creations to take home, and thank the Wilberforce Fair for assisting me to put on another crafting event.

Barb Schofield,
Wilberforce

Thanks to Tag Day

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Minden Health Care Auxiliary, we would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way, big or small, to make our Tag Day another huge success! Because of the amazing generosity of this community, we were able to raise almost $6,000!!!

With these funds, we will be able to support Hyland Crest Long Term Care home with their needs and contribute to the Adult Day Program. We can't do these things without the kindness of the public, the media and all businesses involved. We appreciate you all!

And please don't forget to get your "Wine on Wheels" tickets! It's your chance to win 48 bottles of wine and a wheelbarrow (generously donated by Canadian Tire). Tickets are available at our Gift Shop just outside the Long Term Care Home and from most members. $5 per ticket or three for $10 Draw to be held September 26th at the Minden Farmer's Market. Good Luck!

Cecille Gibbons,
Minden Health Care Auxiliary

OUT AND ABOUT IN HALIBURTON BY: Tanna Holman

Minden Memories

To carry on the camp theme from last week, here is a vintage postcard from Northland Camp at Moose Lake, near Haliburton. Summer camp was and still is a favourite activity for many children who get to leave the city for the great outdoors and learn new skills. /Photo and cutline courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week

Born into a family of minor gods, Meddy has always felt overshadowed by her beautiful, immortal sisters. Longing for a life beyond her island home, she eagerly accepts an invitation from the goddess Athena to train as a priestess in Athens, where she finally finds purpose and belonging.

But when the attention of Poseidon changes the course of her life, Meddy is transformed into the snake-haired Medusa and punished for a crime she did not commit. Forced to embrace a new identity, she refuses to remain a victim, choosing instead to reclaim her story on her own terms.

I, Medusa by Ayana Gray is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

Contemporary to Classic and a chicken on a vase

IVY KATZ
Journalist

The age old question of which came first: the chicken or the egg? The question might be as old as the ancient relief-style glass carving techniques featured emerging artist, Syndi Weatherson, uses in her hand-made glass vases. In particular, her showcased vase, features of all things, a chicken.

This past Wednesday, glass artist Weatherson gave an Artist Talk at Haliburton's Rails End Gallery. The exhibit and talk is part of FUSION: Ontario Glass & Clay Association's inaugural The Henry Goodman Exhibition for Emerging Artists, running from July 15 to Sept. 5, 2026.

The Henry Goodman Exhibition highlights a dynamic group of emerging voices working in clay and glass today, shared the website.

Weatherson engaged a filled room of curious aficionados and aesthetes alike for an hour on the in-depth studio process of making hand-made, coloured glass vases.

"You have to leave things up to the kiln gods," said Weatherson, explaining that pieces can break unexpectedly, at any point in the process. Sometimes pieces break on their final visit to the kiln, just before completion, after hours of devotion have gone into the art piece. "You have to be able to adapt and adjust. Glass is a very unforgiving medium," she added.

Weatherson fell in love with the art of glass-blowing after having completed the Art Fundamentals at Sheridan College in Oakville. She graduated from the Bachelor of Crafts and Design program in 2022.

The artist followed her graduation with a stint at The Corning Museum of Glass in New York state, perfecting her craft with some of the best artists in the glass-making industry today.

Corning, New York, is known as "Crystal City" or the "mecca of glass" for its rich history in glass making; the museum boasts the world's largest glass and artifact collection, dating back as far as 3,500 years ago.

Corningware, a household name many would recognize, is also the inventor of Pyrex glass, optical fibre, and Gorilla Glass, and maintain their namesake headquarters in the city. Corning continues to specialize in all sorts of glass, for the scientific fields, such as lenses, to the tech fields, such as the glass used in smart phones.

Weatherson's talk was highly informative, complimented with slideshow video examples of her in-studio process. Her knowledge illustrated the gamut from contemporary to classic examples, and went in depth jut enough, to allow the audience to understand the multi-process method from start to finished product.

Weatherson gave practical advice for artists and curious art and glass enthusiasts alike, such as how an engraving lathe is very different from a cutting lathe, when carving designs into glass.

She discussed the process of sanding, and the grit needed, is similar to when one is sanding to refinish wood. She gave an overview of how acids are used to create different layers, often seen in relief-style cameos and ancient tableware, and how she uses it in her work.

Different samples of her work, which are not in the exhibit, were passed around for the more tactile audience members. The textures and various weight of the pieces was something to behold.

Asked about what she does with the glass that shatters in the kiln and whether the glass can be reused again in new projects, Weatherson explained that unfortunately due to iron oxides used in colouring the glass, it cannot be put back into the raw glass area, as "the other artists in the studio-space would probably not appreciate if all the glass has turned blue."

Weatherson acknowledged this dilemma and the different ways she is reducing waste and making the art of glass-making more sustainable. One of those ways is to re-purpose the small pieces of glass into beautiful earrings; impromptu she passed around a pair that she was wearing.

One of Weatherson's more recent endeavours was learning how to solder. She is now actively making stained glass and custom lighting, working on projects with clients.

Clients will describe what they want, and Weatherson is flexible and accommodating, allowing clients to choose how involved they wish to be in the design process. She also works in the studios at Harbourfront Centre in Toronto. Email sydni.weatherson@gmail.com to reach the artist.

As for the chicken on the vase? Weatherson explained her featured chicken vase, officially entitled *Heirloom*, is made of blown and engraved glass, created in 2024 using 1800s relief-style techniques. Heirloom was inspired partly from her affinity for drawing birds, chickens in particular, but was also in response to the ancient tradition of having women on vases.

Drop into Rails End Gallery to see Weatherson's vase and other beautiful works in person. Visit clayandglass.on.ca to learn more about FUSION: Ontario Clay & Glass Association.

Glass artist Sydni Weatherson's personal pair of reclaimed glass earrings created from broken glass of her other art-works.

> *You have to leave things up to the kiln gods ...*
>
> – Sydni Weatherson, featured artist at Rail's End Gallery

Artist Sydni Weatherson holds her handmade glass vase, *Heirloom*, with a story behind it as part of The Henry Goodman Exhibit running now at Rails End Gallery. /IVY KATZ staff

Stories of adventure across the county

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

There is untouched nature and beauty abound in Haliburton County.

You just need to know where to look.

On Thursday, July 16, Rick Whitteker presented *Trails and Waterways: A Journey Through Our Natural Heritage* at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

The first of two community Heritage Speaker Series, Whitteker shared his tales of exploration and adventure throughout Haliburton County while providing tips on hiking and paddling. At the end of the presentation, Whitteker was joined by the Minden Hills Cultural Centre's very own Robert Wong in a lesson in identifying skulls and tracks of local fauna.

At the beginning of Whitteker's talk, he spoke on how there are opportunities to connect with nature everywhere in the county.

Namely, before his presentation at the Cultural Centre, he said that he could hear plenty of goldfinches along the Minden boardwalk, merely steps away.

With goldfinches primarily using thistle to build nests, he pondered with the audience what they could be using for nesting material in a wetland.

Setting the precedent for the talk, he explained that there is beauty and inspiration to discover and ponder around every corner.

"There are thousands of opportunities to go out and connect with the natural environment in a way you are comfortable with," said Whitteker.

His presentation outlined lakes, rivers, and wetlands that are easily accessible in the county.

Rick Whitteker presented *Trails and Waterways: A Journey Through Our Natural Heritage* at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on July 16. His talk spoke on the accessibility of nature in Haliburton County and the joy in taking your time and digesting little nuggets of intrigue. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Starting with the Rail Trail, Whitteker described the destination as an easily accessible trail. Covered with tamarack trees, they are a unique species that is a coniferous tree that drops its needles every year.

Using a woolly bear caterpillar as an example of noticing the little things, Whittaker says that there is a lot to see if you take your time in nature.

With his experience on lakes, rivers, trails, and wetlands in the county, Whitteker said that his explorations shaped his writing as published in our *County Life* newspaper.

The second example Whitteker spoke of was the Queen Elizabeth II Provincial Park. With an access point near Devil's Lake Road, south of Minden, he highlighted the Fire Tower Trail. The trail brings visitors to Crane Lake around four kilometres and brings hikers in a loop back to their car.

"It is a sweet little one hour loop," he said.

The trail also shows the history of using towers in the area as a means of fire prevention. In the summertime, you may be lucky enough to spot turtle shells twinkling in the water.

The third example Whitteker spoke on was Barnum Creek. Throughout the creek, Whitteker noted seeing damselflies fluttering around the flowing waters. He also said that the creek offers a rare chance of untouched nature.

The fourth example was Whitteker's recent trip walking to Ritchie Falls. On his journey, he saw a hummingbird moth.

Along his hike, he also witnessed male swallowtail butterflies 'puddling' along the path trying to consume necessary minerals along the muddy trail. The males of the species need the necessary minerals to be able to breed.

"It is a beautiful, accessible waterfall that you can swim in," said Whitteker. "The way back is a really pleasant rural road."

Switching to the winter season, Whitteker says that the trail along the Minden Whitewater Preserve provides a spectacular experience. Hoar frost can be seen along the falls. Throughout the Whitewater Preserve park, he described seeing many yellow-bellied sapsuckers

Paddling to Bentshoe Lake, Whitteker says that he was lucky enough to find sundew and pitcher plants, some of Ontario's few insectivorous plant species. Living in wetlands, paddling is one of the best ways to access the areas in which they live.

Seeing these insectivorous plants is a rare sight, but please be careful not to damage them.

"You gotta be on the water in June in Haliburton County," said Whitteker.

Throughout the rest of his talk, Whitteker spoke of Bear Lake, Centre Lake, the Oxtongue River, Three Brothers Falls and more. Every journey brought something that sparked joy along the path.

"If you are looking to see the maximum amount of things in the shortest amount of time, go to a wetland," he urged.

Whitteker has collected his stories of paddles and outdoor explorations in his book *Nature Nuggets*, available throughout the county.

The second part of Whitteker's talk included an educational session by Robert Wong, who explained how to identify different skulls. Afterwards, Whitteker explained how to identify different tracks of local fauna.

The second part of the Minden Hills Cultural Centres Community Heritage Series will be presented on Aug. 13 at 5 p.m. Andrea Coysh will be providing a live barn loom demonstration and discussing her experiences as a local weaver.

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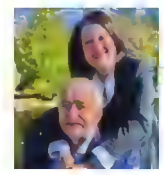

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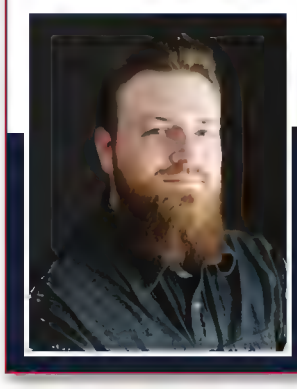

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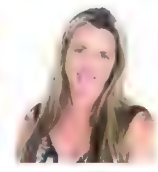

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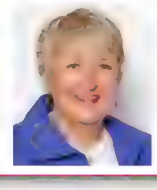

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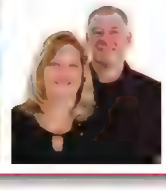

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Eva Kabande and Dan Abela performed at the Irondale Church on July 9 of this year. Bark Lake Cultural Developments executive member Douglas Rodger says that he envisions the future of the church being a space for the arts in Haliburton County. Without a president, the BLCD will be forced to sell the building. /Photo courtesy of Kevin Pepper

Irondale church seeks community help

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Stepping into Irondale's St. John's Church, you are teleported back 120 years in time.

Looking outside through the church's original windows, the trees are distorted with swirls and ripples, showing you exactly what the congregation saw a century ago.

As its namesake suggests, Irondale has origins connected to the iron ore industry. Charles Pusey, an American iron magnate came to the Irondale area in 1879 and was influential in planning the layout of the town including a hotel, store, mill, and railway station.

As a devoted Christian, Pusey's wife Ruth was heavily involved with the Church of England. As an act of her devotion, she financed the building of the church in Irondale. Once completed, she donated the church to the local community to be a house of worship for all denominations.

By 1900, Pusey's mining operation was shut down after the iron proved not to be lucrative. By 1960, Canadian National's abandonment of the IB&O railway was the final nail in the coffin for the town.

While the pews are quieter today, the Irondale Church remains an attendant to Irondale's boom.

For Bark Lake Cultural Developments (BLCD) executive Douglas Rodger, Irondale's Church is a time machine.

It brings back memories of the one room churches he attended with his mother. Waking up early to light a fire, his congregation's breath could be seen on the coldest of mornings.

As the church sits today, original artifacts and wainscotting decorate the interior.

The nonprofit group Bark Lake Cultural Developments Group (formerly the Irondale Historical Society) was formed to purchase the building from the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, battling for control of the church for two years before acquiring it in 2012. Several families from the local community contributed funds towards acquiring the church and paying for its mortgage, in addition to many fundraisers over the years put on by the BLCD group.

> *"This is a pretty important place and worth the effort to keep it alive.*
>
> – Douglas Rodger, Bark Lake Cultural Developments

The building was recognized by Minden Hills in 2011 as being culturally and historically significant, but is not recognized as a historical place provincially or federally.

On July 9, Bark Lake Cultural Developments posted a plea for support on Facebook, asking the public to help save the church.

As a vibrant community hub, the Irondale Church has seen many weddings, funerals, celebrations, and has acted as the central cultural hub for Irondale.

Carol Simmons has been leading the charge as president of the BLCD in preserving the Irondale Church for over 18 years. Last December, Simmons penned her resignation from the BLCD board.

"We need a president," urged their post. "Without that person stepping forward, BLCD will be forced to wind down its activities, liquidate its assets and donate the proceeds to other charitable entities as determined by the rules of the Canadian Revenue Association."

For Douglas Rodger, he envisions the Irondale Church to become a known space for the arts in Haliburton County.

"I would like to take the cultural development part of it and make that more of an active part of it, along with the history," said Rodger.

As a playwright, he sees potential in the space as a multi-use venue for the arts, in addition to providing non-denominational worship. With potential connections to improve the sound system, he says that the most crucial aspect of the church's future is a president with a long term vision.

With the church's natural acoustics, Rodger says that the church is already uniquely positioned towards music and performance.

While it will always look like a church, everything inside is movable and can be arranged to suit a variety of needs.

"There would be enough money in the back to keep things going," said Rodger. "Until they could come up with new and different ways for fundraising and more volunteers to do the work."

Beginning the process, Rodger has put up a lighting system and says that a sound system would not be difficult to acquire.

"People's imagination can fill the space," assures Rodger. "This is a pretty important place and worth the effort to keep it alive."

As the population of Irondale and surrounding Minden Hills increases, Rodger hopes that the increase of full-time residents brings fresh faces to the group.

To sustain the BLCD, a secretary, treasurer, and president is needed.

Primarily, a president is needed in the future to sign papers and to continue to be a nonprofit in the eyes of the CRA.

"I would really hate to see it go," said Rodger. "There is something unique about it. The simplicity, the unadorned nature of it. I get a feeling of being back in time," said Rodger. "To me, it is completely original."

To learn more about the organization and to get involved with BLCD, please email historical@irondaleontario.ca.

On Saturday, Aug. 22, the family folk trio Mystikana will be playing a concert at the Irondale Church. Hailing from Eastern Ontario, the group draws on classical training and their love of nature to create intimate, interwoven melodies and rich harmonies.

For this concert, BLCD will be transforming the church to reflect the natural world and enhance the ethereal qualities of their music. Tickets can be purchased at irondaleontario.ca and cost $25. The show begins at 7 p.m.

Tour de Forest a one stop shop

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Twenty years is a milestone worthy of celebration.

And for the well-loved Tour de Forest, the organizers have decided to recognize the feat by shifting gears.

The art tour was originally designed for up and coming artists, who were new to the scene, and did not have capacity for product that some of the larger shows demand. "Our idea all along was to take newer artists, and show them what this is all about," said Charlene McConnell, one of the organizers of the event. "And we've stuck to that through the years."

While the tour has historically toured various artist studios around the county, this year, the organizers have opted for a different approach.

"No driving for our guests," said McConnell. "They get to meet every artist in one place."

This coming weekend, between Friday to Sunday, 23 artists from the Tour de Forest will welcome guests to the Haliburton Legion. "There's a good variety of artists," said McConnell, noting involvement from glass, ceramics, jewellery, photography, and visual artists, to name a few. "There's probably something there for everyone."

McConnell noted that while the summer studio tour concept can be fun, with the event continuing to grow and include more artists, the feasibility of visiting multiple sites becomes difficult. "We've had up to 19 studios, plus guests on tours," she said. "But if we're all in one spot, then we're all equal, we're all artists, and we're all here to have fun."

The show will take place at the Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain Street, on Friday, July 31 from 4 to 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 1 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 2 from 11 a .m. to 4 p.m. McConnell suggested that many may be interested in visiting the show during Midnight Madness, slated for the evening of Aug. 1 in Haliburton.

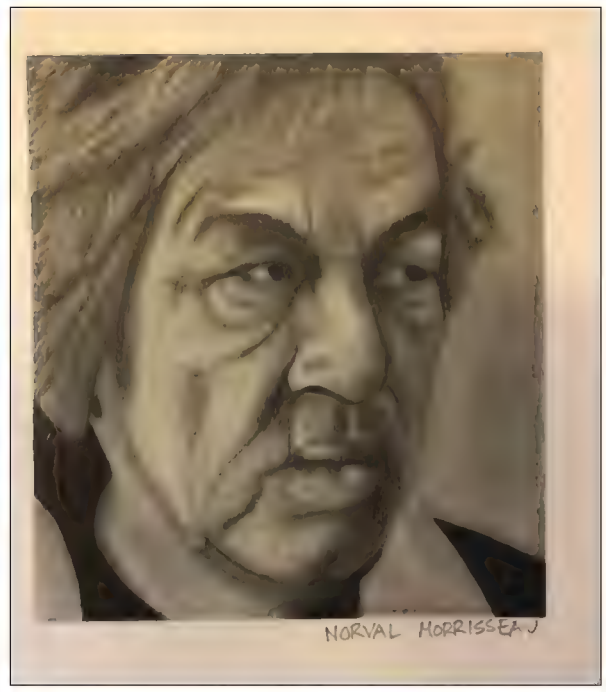
More information can be found at www.haliburtontourdeforest.com.

"Being in one place makes it even for all the artists," said McConnell, "and you still get to meet every artist."

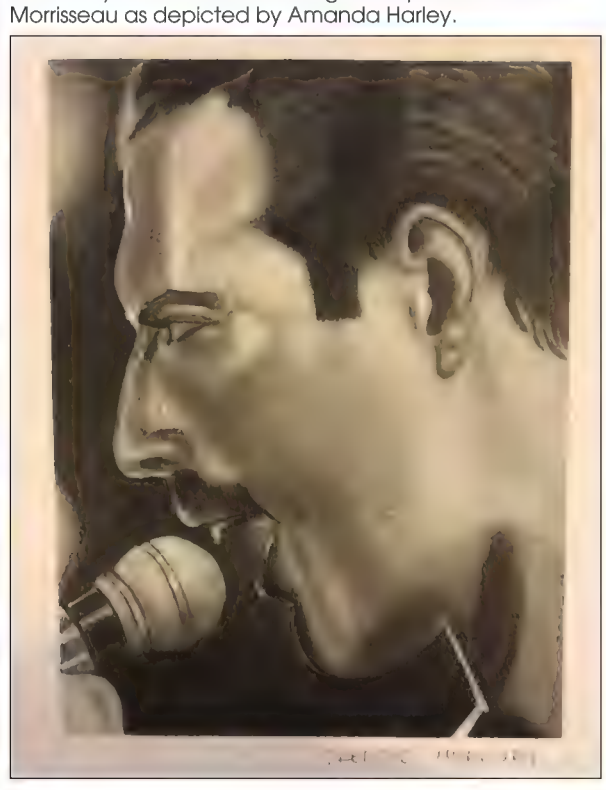
A portrait has a thousand words

IVY KATZ
Journalist

Minden Hills based portrait artist and art teacher Amanda Harley. /IVY KATZ staff



Nationally renowned local indigenous painter Norval Morrisseau as depicted by Amanda Harley.



Queen frontman Freddie Mercury as depicted by Amanda Harley.

The art of portraiture dates back to ancient times and has stood the test of time. There is something intimate about portraits, it is the intersection of personal history and culture in one image.

Portraits, by the very nature of their art-form, cannot be void of artistic and cultural interpretation; portraits hold something which a photograph simply lacks. Requiring only pencil and paper, the art is highly accessible to anyone who wants to learn.

Minden residents may have noticed someone in the local Tim Hortons or other similar establishments sketching portraits. That someone is local artist Amanda Harley.

Harley is a portrait artist, and she did not take long to settle in. Her engaging personality and bright smile, on top of her offering to draw a portrait, are no doubt key factors in Harley's ability to connect with people.

"I was always crafty. I sew, I work with polymer clay. I used to tell people I didn't do illustrations. Then one day I thought, 'why do I short-change myself?'" said Harley in a recent interview, on what got her started with portraiture.

The intention manifested itself in January 2023, when Harley decided to take one art class, where she learned how to draw a face. This ignited a passion for portraits. She has taught herself since that day forward.

Now, Harley is easing into her "third-career," focusing on art and pursuing her craft-based passions full-time. She currently volunteers at New Dawn Interior wood design on Bobcaygeon Road in Minden. Her two previous careers were as a veterinary technician and working with humans in social services.

Harley moved up to the Haliburton Highlands full-time with her husband and teenange son just under a year ago. The choice of a rural environment with more to offer was an intentional decision for her and her family, and they haven't looked back.

The adjustment felt very natural; the welcoming community being a key factor. Harley took no time to connect with the community at large.

Her portfolio is filled with the famous faces of household names, illustrating a skilled artistry far beyond her mere three and half years of practice. Yet Harley remains engaged with her art-form daily; consistently seeking to better her skills.

"I look at faces differently now, and I catch myself wondering, what would it be like to draw those features," explains Harley.

One of her portraits is of local Ojibwe artist Norval Morrisseau. Harley explained his importance to the region and the controversy surrounding his works being forged.

Morrisseau was one of Canada's most "significant and globally recognized artists," with reports of Marc Chagall and Picasso viewing his artworks, according to the TVO Documentary *There Are No Fakes* on the controversy behind his artworks. "He is the first contemporary Indigenous artist to have had a commercial gallery exhibition," said Carmen Robertson of the University of Regina in the program. The documentary can be found on Youtube.

Harley quickly started to meet people in Tim Hortons, asking to draw their portrait, and she would gift it to them, or they would offer to pay what they can. Sometimes people send her a favourite picture, sometimes she takes the picture.

> ***"I always tell people, drawing is not just a talent, it is another skill that anybody can learn."***
>
> – Amanda Harley, artist

These days, Harley has composition requests for her portraits. A recent request was to draw four generations of men, into one family portrait, who could not all be together, compiled of four favourite pictures of those men.

"People may have a portrait photograph with their spouse, but they prefer their face in another photo; I draw a composition of their favourite face from one photo and the rest of the portrait comes from the image of them together," she explained regarding a popular type of composition request. "It's the best of the best in one portrait."

Even though Harley draws the portraits from a photograph, not still-life, she feels the responsibility of getting so close to her subjects and treats it with a very gentle care. "I don't do wrinkles very well, so everyone looks a bit younger," she said with a chuckle. "I try to be true to the picture, but also true to the person."

In addition to portraits, Harley is also teaching one-on-one and small classes on a pay-what-you-can basis, with great success. "People always tell me they can only draw stick figures, and with one class they will surprise themselves with what they can draw," she said. "I always tell people, drawing is not just a talent, it is another skill that anybody can learn."

According to Harley, 80 per cent of the skill is composition, that means getting the eyes, nose, ears, everything in the right place. That's the formula needed for the portrait to look identical to the image being drawn. The other 20 per cent is practice.

The 40 to 60 age group is a popular demographic learning to draw, said Harley. "It's excellent for self-esteem building," she said. "When people see the portrait they drew is recognizable and looks great, it's a big deal. They show their friends, they are able to say, 'Look what I drew!'"

The benefits of art on well-being are well documented, yet Harley's appreciation of the nuances and benefits of art feel organic. She shares that drawing is helpful for people dealing with anxiety and depression. "It takes you out of your head, even just for an hour or two, it makes a difference," she said.

Neuroscience research has proven that art-based activities actually rewire the brain over time, with huge boons towards strengthening cognitive function, building emotional resilience, and even helping to ward off dementia.

Each picture takes her about five hours she said. If she is not happy with a portrait, she redoes it. The nuances between them are fascinating because the minor differences have such an overall effect on the semblance of the image.

"Trust the process," she said. "A lot of times I want to give up, then I trust the process." Harley teaches an accessible, deconstructive method for drawing, using a grid process, which focuses on the micro elements of the image in a macro way. To reach Harley with inquiries, email amanda.harley.vt@gmail.com.

"You'll impress yourself," said Harley, referencing her students. "I tell them, prove me wrong. Nobody's proven me wrong yet," she said with a warm smile.

Current council leaves plans up to next council

from page 1

open
communication.

"They are really important because they describe how the council and staff commit to working together," said Jones.

With responsible growth and community well being, Jones listed the support of housing, protection of the natural environment, strengthening partnerships, and fostering tourism as all important aspects.

Under visionary leadership, Jones listed clarifying governance roles, enhancing customer service, improving decision making, and strengthening organizational capacity and staff retention.

Investing in infrastructure and service includes prioritizing infrastructure investments in roads, bridges, and sidewalks, improving wayfinding and community appearance, and reviewing infrastructure investment opportunities.

Under fiscal responsibility, Jones discussed modernizing financial tools and digital services, and aligning asset management and long term financial planning towards financial stability.

Jones urges that if the strategic plan is accepted, it becomes a living document that can be consulted before every decision.

As a living document, the plan should evolve as new opportunities happen and priorities shift and change.

After Jones' presentation, Fletcher said that if the strategic plan is accepted, it would change council's reports and staff would regularly reference the document to guide their decisions.

After the presentation, Councillor Shirley Johannessen said that the strategic plan would have more power if implemented at the beginning of a new election term.

Fletcher replied saying that most strategic plans straddle election terms, but said that the plan has been long-expected. It could be discussed by the newly elected council with an in-depth review around the middle of the term.

Councillor Tammy McKelvey said that she agreed with Johannessen.

"I would like to see us accept this as information," said McKelvey.

McKelvey asked for the topic to be revisited at a later date. She said it would include updated financial information and there may be difficulties with new council members.

Councillor Pam Sayne disagreed, saying that the document is a priority to the community.

"This is why governance is slow, we don't make decisions," said Sayne. "We have got this before us. We are asking to go ahead. There is nothing earthshattering here. There is some really good information and grounding information here that we can move forward with. Instead of leaving our staff floating down the river, let's ground them to a place that they have to work from. They need some footing from us."

Councillor Ivan Ingram expressed the desire to wait to allow flexibility for the future council in deciding the strategic plan.

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said that the strategic plan was a reflection of the wants and desires of the community and should pass regardless of the upcoming election.

Jones said that the timing of the strategic plan is not relevant to being accepted by council, it acts as a roadmap for staff and goals.

"We were elected to represent the community," said Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter. "Most of what is here is the framework and the living document."

"I think we have the responsibility to approve this," said Carter.

Four members of council voted against, leaving the township without a strategic plan.

Do it for Dawson

The Dawson Hamilton Memorial Baseball Tournament happens every year, in honour of Minden local Dawson Hamilton, a brave boy who passed away at the age of 10 from cancer. The tournament draws hundreds to the Minden ball diamonds to cheer on their teams, and wrap up a successful season of Minden Minor League Baseball. /TIM YANO staff photographer

MH public works discusses projects

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

It is no secret that Minden Hills needs to improve its infrastructure.

To address these shortcomings and planned projects, Mike Timmins, director of public works for Minden Hills visited their council meeting held on Thursday, July 23, to discuss some much needed and planned projects.

Speed and traffic study

Work will begin immediately in Minden Hills towards identifying needs for local roads, speed limits, and traffic speed.

Accepting the proposal from GEI Consultants, work will begin immediately in determining what is needed for road maintenance, capital projects, and financial forecasting.

The goal of the studies and reports will contribute towards the township's Asset Management Plan. As a best practice, a Roads Needs Study should be completed every five years.

Council agreed to the proposal, with work beginning immediately.

Sidewalk improvements

It's time to talk the talk about where we walk the walk.

Timmins sought approval of awarding Minden's sidewalk improvements project to Weir Gradall Limited, a Muskoka-based construction company.

"It is nice to see you come in under budget," said Councillor Bob Sisson.

The winning submission's price was $331,425.

"We are attacking the worst of the worst sidewalks," said Timmins.

He noted rumbling sidewalks and interlocking bricks will be addressed first to improve mobility and accessibility. Tactile plates for the visually impaired will also be installed.

Councillor Pam Sayne asked if there could be some precautions to protect the construction over the winter.

Timmins said that typically, additional salt is added to the sidewalk to prevent falls. Councillor Ivan Ingram asked about an alternative to protect the concrete.

Timmins said he would investigate options further.

Proposed crosswalk

After heated discussions over several months regarding the proposed crossover project, Timmins brought the topic back to council to discuss the concerns brought up at prior council meetings.

Regarding parking, he says that additional parking along Water Street could be created, as long as budget allows. Signage indicating available parking lots can be put up in town to ease traffic and improve parking availability.

Timmins says that the need for more parking has been mixed, with some saying we need more, while others express that it is not a necessity.

The idea of the crosswalk creating traffic was discussed. He clarified that the flashing lights of the courtesy crosswalk is different from the lights near Archie Stouffer Elementary School. If the lights are flashing but no pedestrian is present, drivers can proceed with caution while passing.

Timmins also said that for the township to create a new crosswalk, it will need to comply with AODA concerns.

Ingram asked Timmins if he had a price estimate for the sidewalk project.

"The engineer's estimate was $130,000," said Timmins.

Councillor Tammy McKelvey says that she has had many people express enjoyment of two courtesy crosswalks and that one crosswalk would encourage jaywalking.

Councillor Pam Sayne says that the crosswalk would increase accessibility of the downtown core. If they improve their sidewalks and then approve of a new crosswalk in the future, the sidewalks would have to be repaired again.

CAO Cynthia Fletcher said that the sidewalks will be moving ahead. With the delay of the crosswalk project, they will not be happening at the same time regardless of the council's decision.

Staff have already been given direction and the project was approved during the budgeting process, reminded Fletcher.

"I think that this crosswalk is extremely important not only for the elderly and the people who are disabled but children and for everybody who wants to sensibly cross that street," said Carter.

"I just want to make sure I understand that really, council can't have opinions or change their thoughts," said McKelvey.

"I have never said council cannot have opinions or change directions," said Fletcher. "I said there is a procedure to go through if you are reconsidering previous directions to staff."

Council voted four to three in favour of the report in receiving the crossover project as information.

THE TOWNSHIP OF
MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON. EVERY SEASON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey parcel of land more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLRA2025102:** The Original Allowance for a Road, Part of Lot 76 and Part of Sixth Street Registered Plan No. 172 and is identified as Allister Street and locally known as McKay Street, lying in front of Property Roll #4616-010-000-59300, Geographic Township of Anson

The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE that Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will consider a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance at the Regular Meeting of August 13, 2026.

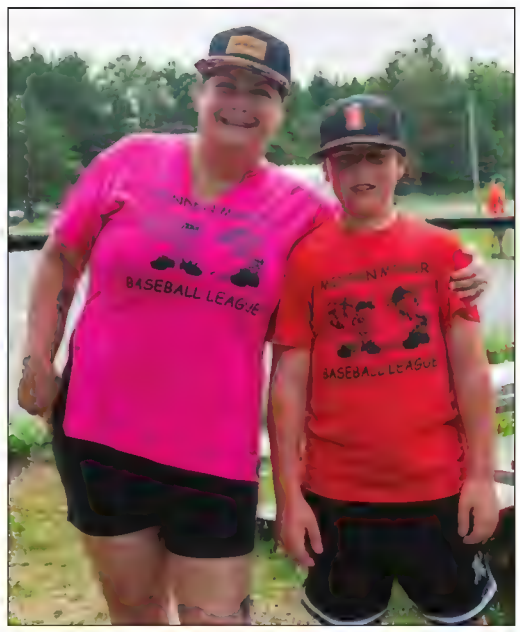
AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on August 12, 2026.

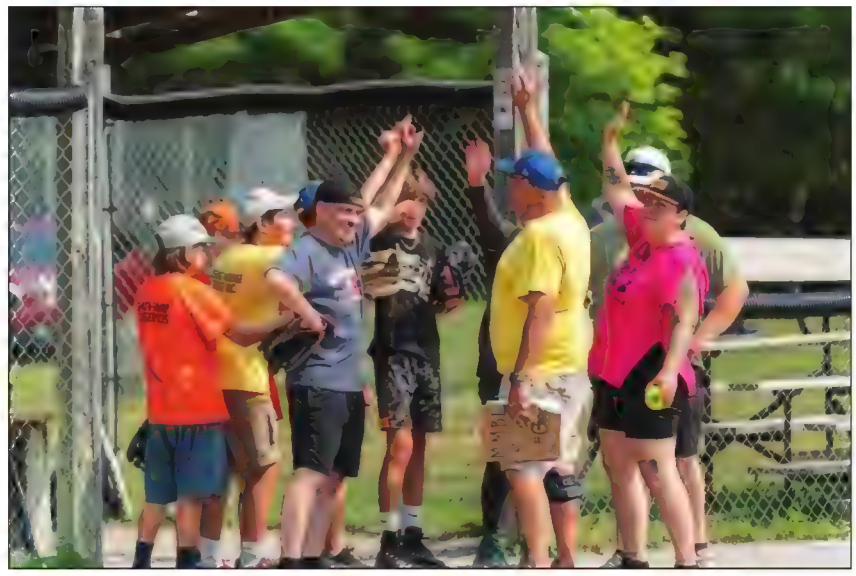
AND TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

Play ball!

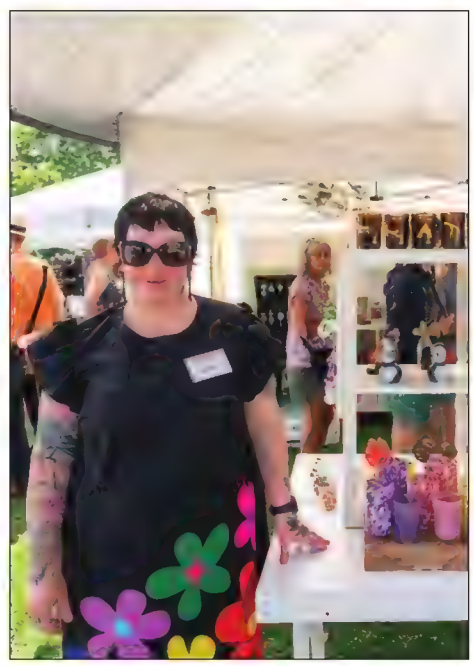
The annual Dawson Hamillton Memorial Baseball Tournament took place this past weekend, on Sunday, July 26 at the baseball diamond in Minden. The tournament, set for people of all ages, is the final event that wraps up a successful baseball season in Minden. /TIM YANO staff photographer





Art with heart

The annual Rail's End Arts and Craft Festival took place this past Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in Head Lake Park, with thousands coming out to explore the 100 artists displaying their work from across the country. With live music, food, and a wide variety of artists and mediums, the event was a success over the course of the weekend. /TIM YANO staff photographer



Brightest blooms

The second annual Bloomfest was held this past Saturday, July 25 through the Little Bloom Company on Ritchie Falls Road. With over 20 vendors, the day welcomed all ages to shop, play, and explore the flower fields on the property. Many left with self-picked flower bouquets, with bright colours celebrating the season. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Willing to take risks: Profile of a local artist

DANIELLE CARNEY

Guest Columnist

Local Erin Lynch sat down with contributing writer, Danielle Carney this past week, to share her journey as an artist in the Haliburton Highlands. /photo by Danielle Carney

In 2001, Erin Lynch left behind a bohemian life of travel to put down roots in Haliburton as a mother soon to give birth. Twenty-five years later, those roots run deep. She has raised an artistic young man while becoming one of the most dedicated contributors and architects of the vibrant arts and culture scene that brings life to Haliburton today.

Lynch is a well-established local artist, writer, and arts administrator. She serves as Senior Operations and Programming Manager at Fleming College's Haliburton School of Art and Design and, as of this year, sits on the board of Craft Ontario.

A long lineage of the arts

Born into a multi-generational family of artists and writers, Lynch was primed for a creative life from the start. Both of her parents were writers. Her mother, Sharon Lynch, began as a watercolourist and is now a ceramicist and a longtime contributor to the *Haliburton Echo*. Her father, Michael Lynch, worked in public relations and as a writer for *Northern Ontario Business News*.

On her mother's side, the artistic legacy runs deeper still. Her grandfather, Hal Johnson, was a painter, illustrator, and gallerist at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Her great-uncle Bruce Johnson was a commercial artist in Montreal. Both of her maternal great-grandmothers were also creatives – one a watercolourist, the other a writer.

Erin was born in Vancouver and camped with her parents before she could walk, a family tradition that continues. They lived briefly in Whitehorse, Yukon, then drove across Canada in a pick-up truck to Haliburton to be closer to her mother's side of the family, who have owned a cottage in the Buckslide / Boshkung Lake area since just after the Second World War. After her parents divorce when she was 11, her mother, Sharon, raised her as a single mother in Haliburton, with the tenacity to work as an artist and writer.

"When I moved to Haliburton, I really wanted to be a columnist in one of the papers, and so I just phoned up and made an appointment and went in with an illustration to go with the column. Len (Leonard) Pizzey, who was the publisher of the *Echo*, said this is fine, but can you write 52 of these a year? And I said, 'Oh, I've got millions of stories,'" says Sharon.

Lynch recalls the comforting pull of her mother's small studio as a child. "I always remember going into that space," she says. "I loved looking at the boxes of pastels and I loved the smell of the art supplies. I liked snooping around in there; it was very comforting."

Creative expression and conversations about literature, politics, and social justice were always celebrated at home. Steeped in this environment, Lynch left Haliburton after high school, determined to broaden her worldview. She studied Journalism at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University), taking the magazine stream with a focus on social justice in both her studies and personal life. In 1996, after completing her third year, she travelled to Vancouver for the summer, where she lived with her aunt and interned for *Adbusters Magazine,* the provocative, high-design, anti-corporate publication.

"I volunteered once a week that summer. I answered phones, did some other administrative work and hung out with a bunch of other eager hip activists," says Lynch. She also published a short news story entitled *Waist Watching*, a piece about a corporation that refused to advertise in *British Vogue* – albeit only for 24 hours before caving – because of its use of an anorexic-thin model.

La Vie Bohème

After graduating, Lynch embarked on a life-changing six-month solo journey through India. She explored different regions, spending a month in Varanasi on the banks of the Ganges, where she took daily private Kathak classes – a form of Northern Indian classical dance characterized by rhythmic foot stamping, fast spinning, and storytelling through facial expressions, body language, and hand gestures. She continued Kathak classes upon returning to Toronto.

For the following year she worked as a bartender in Toronto to save money and volunteered with Sistering, an organization that supports high-risk women. Though offered a writing job, her commitment to travel prevailed. Lynch and her then-partner –who would later become her son's father– were moved by talks on the Zapatista Movement. They embarked on an open-ended two-year journey through Mexico and Central America. Along their travels through Mexico they went to Chiapas to get involved with the Zapatista Movement. Through a human rights organization in the city of Chiapas they traveled to a remote occupied Mayan Indigenous village in the region as international observers. The Zapatistas, an Indigenous-led group in Chiapas, Mexico, rose up in 1994 to oppose neoliberal policies, defend Indigenous land rights and autonomy, and resist privatization of communal lands.

> ***"I loved looking at the boxes of pastels and I loved the smell of the art supplies ... it was very comforting."***
>
> —Erin Lynch, artist

Their presence in the village was a response to recent devastating military attacks. The village was politically divided; as outsiders, they were viewed warily by both sides and faced daily challenges. "To properly bathe there was a river spot with the women but I wasn't necessarily accepted by them," she explains. Their accommodation was a wooden shack in which they hung a hammock and where they contended daily with a rat that was after the food they had brought into the village to feed themselves.

They left after two weeks, shocked by the experience but with a much deeper understanding of its complexities. As they continued through Mexico, Lynch began to delve into jewellery making. She had packed a pair of jewellery pliers for wire work. She learned informally from local and travelling artisans she met along the way, embracing a bohemian existence of art, community, and freedom from schedules.

The couple took a bus from Mexico to Guatemala and then to Costa Rica where they stayed for a couple of months working on an organic farm. "We started running out of money, and we were trying to stay as long as we could. So on the weekends I was hitchhiking to a tourist place and camping on the beach and selling jewellery on the beach." Not legally permitted to make money in a foreign country, police intervened. The couple decided it was time to return to Canada.

Lynch spent the summer with her mom in Haliburton, letting go of her Toronto apartment with plans to return to Mexico for the winter – this time to an Indigenous fishing village on the Pacific Coast. "It was actually a protected site for nesting sea turtles. I camped on a cliff for four months with my then partner. It was during that trip that I actually realized that I was pregnant" says Lynch. With little money and a change in priorities, the couple returned from Mexico to Canada together by bus.

Putting down roots

Lynch moved in with her mother in Haliburton upon her return and took a

see ARTIST page 19

Artist finds home when returning to her roots

from page 18

job with Country Rose. She moved to a rental with her son's father soon after, though this relationship ended by the time her son, Seamus, turned two. In the years that followed, Lynch walked in her mother's footsteps as a single mother in Haliburton, working as an artist and writer. She lived in a rental with her son and, using a government grant for small business startups, she started her jewellery business, Bella's Bazaar. She also began freelance writing for the local papers and magazines, taking on small contracts with organizations such as the Arts Council - Haliburton Highlands and Point In Time, and taught art workshops at Haliburton School of Art and Design (HSAD).

Lynch persevered as an artist. She developed close friends, primarily with emerging artists who had moved to Haliburton for the love of the community upon completing their studies at HSAD. During this period she also worked with ArtsCan Circle, an organization that connects high-risk youth with professional artists, making multiple trips to remote Indigenous communities in Canada. She travelled twice to Pikangikum First Nation, a fly-in Ojibwe community in Northwestern Ontario, and once to Fort Hope, Ontario. She was shocked by the reality that some of these communities lack clean drinking water and indoor plumbing, and by the profound level of despair and isolation.

In 2007, following a creative impulse, Lynch co-founded the Art Hive Maple Lake Artisans Collective (later known simply as The Art Hive) in the historic building that was formerly Welch's Store off Highway 118 near Carnarvon. With $5,000 from a family inheritance, a seller-financed two-year mortgage she would eventually take over, and a small HCDC grant, she and a group of dedicated artists transformed the run-down building into a vibrant, artist-run hub that also became home to Lynch and her young son. For nine years it hosted workshops, exhibitions, studio space, and community events, winning a Best New Business Chamber of Commerce Award along the way. The celebrated Fashion Fallies was an Art Hive original that the Arts Council - Haliburton Highlands continued after the collective closed its doors in 2016. Lynch and her husband Brad have now converted the original heritage section of the building into a welcoming eclectic short-term rental, preserving its historic character and continuing its evolving history of serving the community.

Lynch says The Art Hive was a culturally rich environment for her young son to grow up in, being surrounded by artists and activity. Seamus is now an artist in his own right. He made a film that was shown at TIFF Lightbox when he was 12, and had a print screening T-shirt business in high school. Now as a young man living in Toronto, Seamus works in hospitality by day and is the lead singer of a hardcore punk band called Doorstep Fire by night. The band does fundraisers for different organizations engaged in social activism. Lynch speaks of her son's good work ethic with notable pride.

When the Art Hive naturally ran its course, Lynch transitioned to Fleming College's Haliburton School of Art and Design, first as a studio technologist, later advancing to Operations and Con-Ed Manager, and recently promoted to Senior Operations and Programming Manager. After many years of self-employed freelance work as a writer and jeweller, supplemented by small contract jobs, she is grateful for stable employment doing work she believes in – supporting the next generation of artists while ensuring programs run smoothly and students remain safe.

A message to emerging artists

Lynch points to the necessity of taking risks. "I think the advice I would give anyone that wants to pursue a creative life is you have to take chances. You have to be a bit of a risk taker. I don't mean unsafe or high risk, but you have to push yourself and be uncomfortable to grow".

Lynch often references Sarah Polley's memoir *Run Towards the Danger* in our interview, finding resonance in its exploration of leaning into fear and overcoming it. She encourages me to read it and I do. Here is a quote from the book: "I know now that I will become weaker at what I avoid, that what I run towards will strengthen in me. I know to listen to my body, but not so much that I convince myself I can't do things or that I can't push myself; not so much that I can use the concept of listening to my body as a weapon against my vitality. I do the highway drive I'm nervous about doing. I prepare to make a film. I write the book I've always wanted to write. 'Run towards the danger' is a way of being that I have taken into my life with me; a treasure, a spell, a sword." –Sarah Polley, *Run Towards the Danger*

This philosophy echoes throughout Lynch's own journey: the bold decision to travel on her own without previous travel experience, following her passion to stand up for social justice even when it's uncomfortable, starting again in Haliburton to raise a son on her own and building a creative life, risking all the money she had to co-create the Art Hive, and learning to love deeply in her nine-year marriage with her dedicated husband Brad.

Lynch is a powerhouse of creativity and a strong role model of resilience. Her artistic legacy is again passed forward to the next generation through her son. Her journey reminds us that a true artistic life is courageously built, wherever one chooses to call home.

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MVPs

Arianna Washington. Pink Team. 10-13

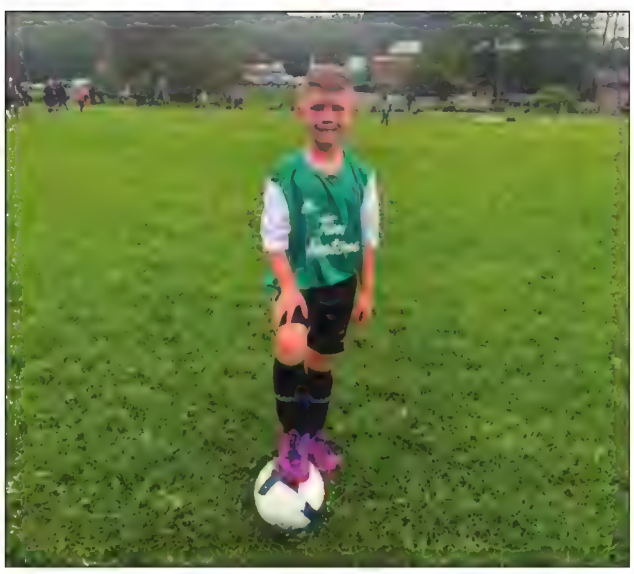
Aspen Folco. Orange Team. 4-6

Erin McGregor. Yellow team. Girls 10-13

Hudson. Light Blue Team. 4-6

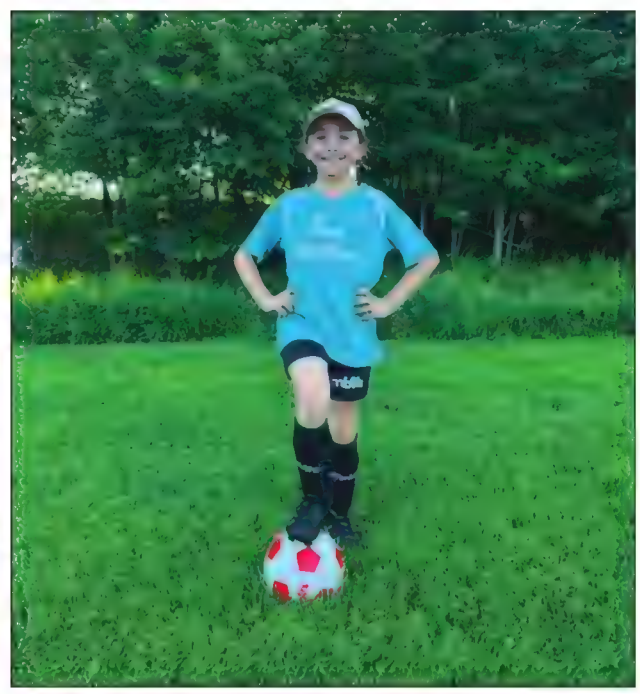
Leon. Blue Boys Team. 7-9

Ezra Martens. Boys Light Blue Team. 10-11



Logan Stancat. Green Team. 7-9

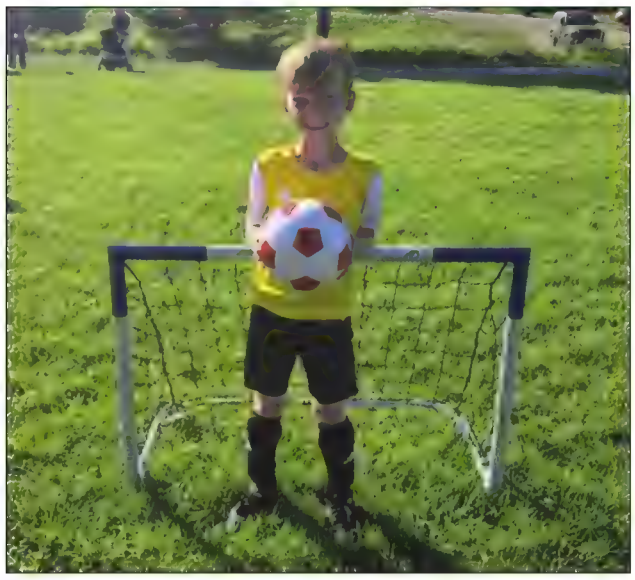
Marshall Townsend. Team Orange. 7-9



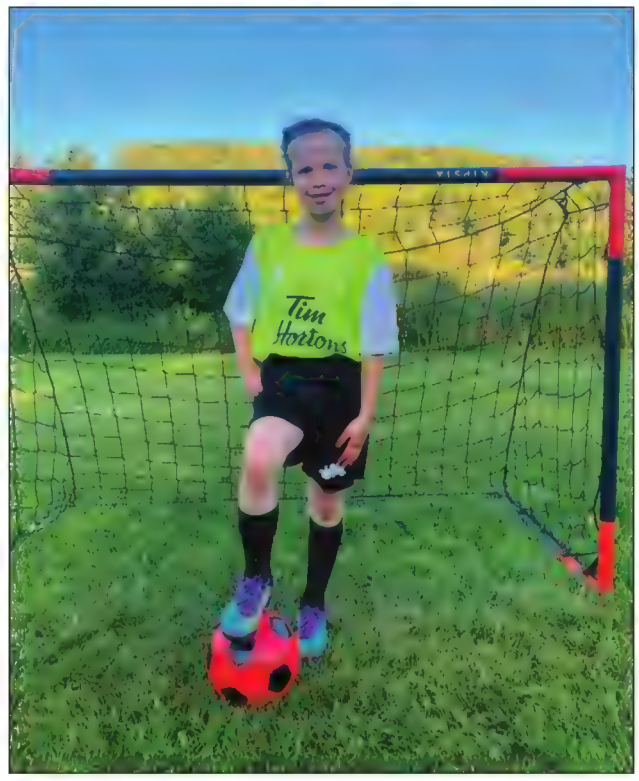
Kennedy Draker. Teal Tigers. Girls 7-9

MVPs

HALIBURTON GRASSROOTS

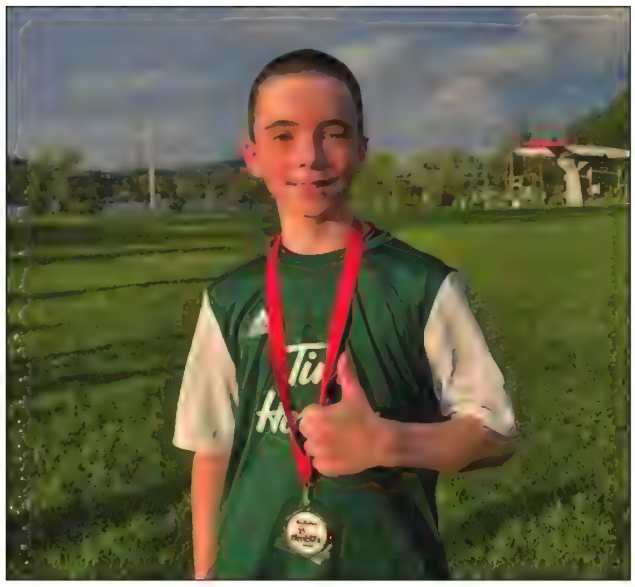


Mason Bagg. Yellow Team. 4-6

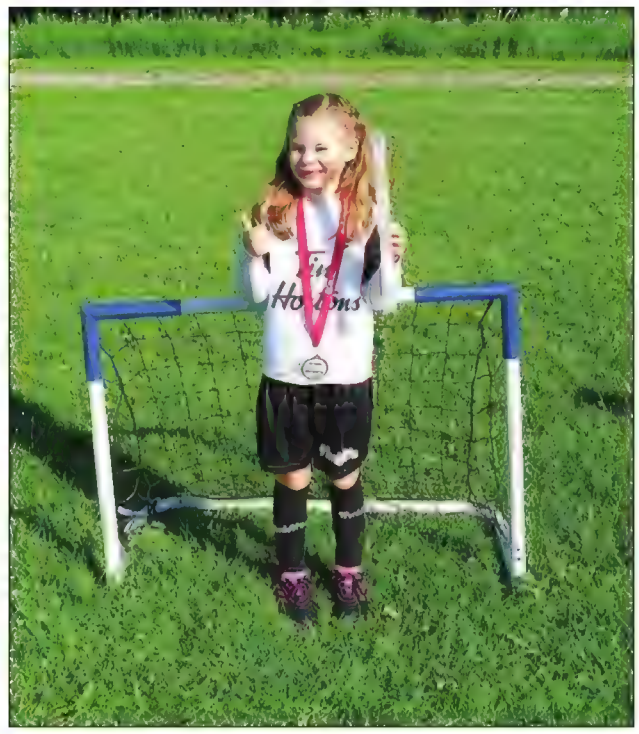


Ruby Russell. Solar Yellow Team. 7-9

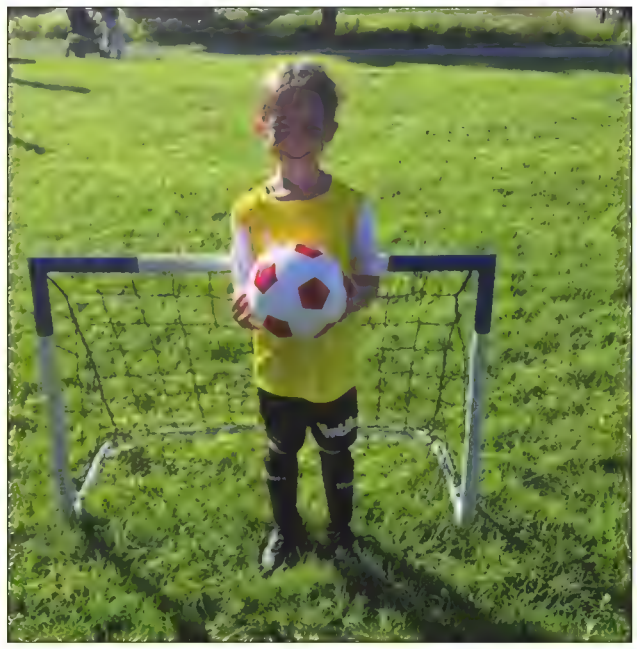
Meadow McGlade. Red Team. 4-6



Ruairi Byrne. Green Team. 11-13

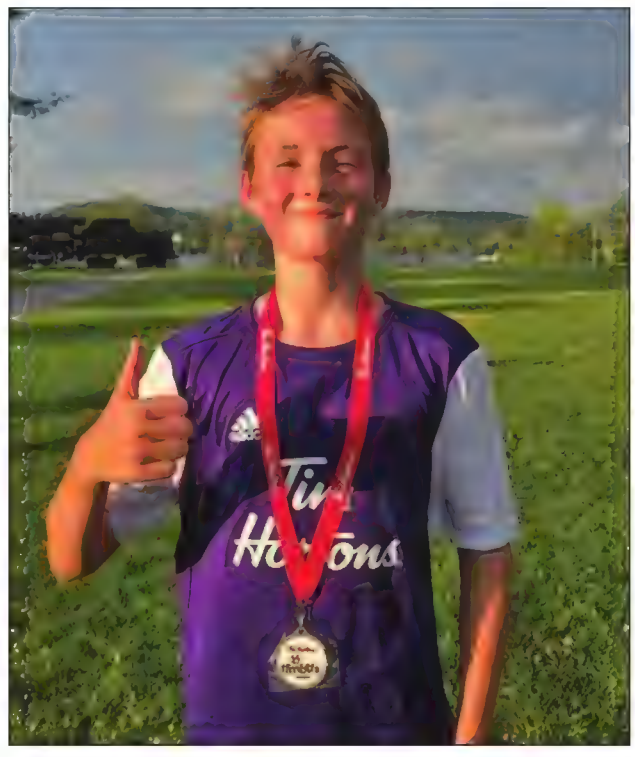


Mckinley Macduff . White Team. 4-6

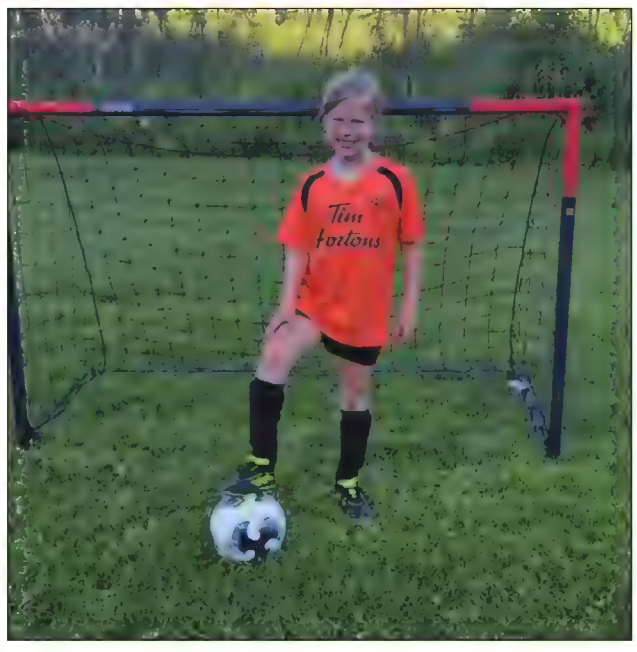


Nora Metcalfe . Yellow Team. 4-6

Michael Gliddon. Grey team. 7-9



Walker Brown. Purple Team. Boys 11-13

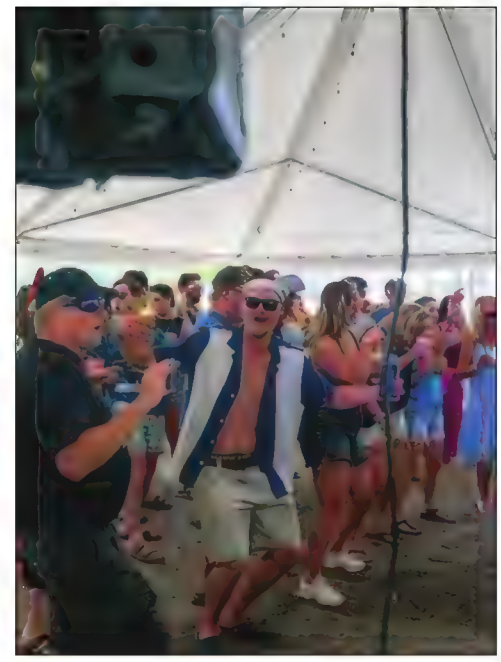


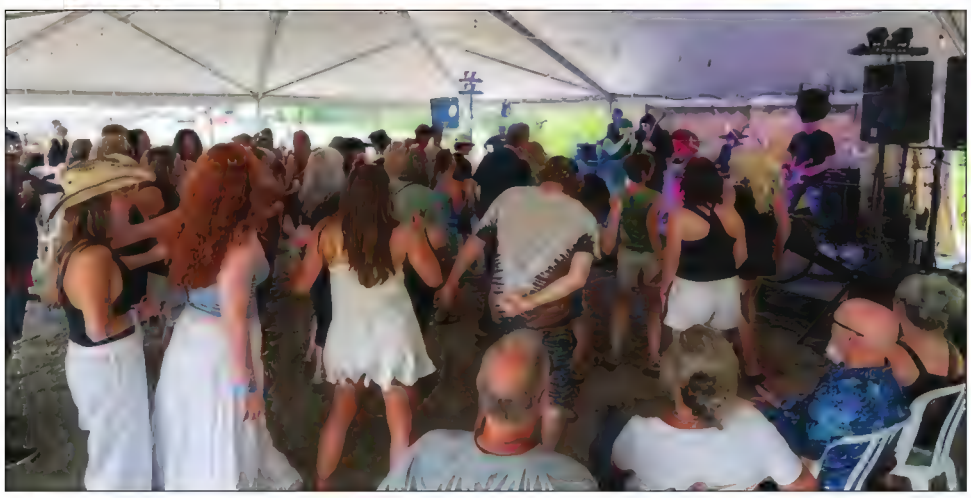
Summer Da Lanca. Orange Team. 4-6

Wells Seed White Team 4-6

Back in Black

AC/DC tribute band, 21 Gun Salute, rocked the Kennisis Lake Marina this past weekend, with shredding guitar, blaring vocals, and a whole lot of drums, the event drew people of all ages to sing, dance, and jive along with the rock band. The show continues the summer events the local marina is offering, with Jim Cuddy presenting on Aug. 16. /TIM YANO staff photographer





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YARD SALE – **Saturday, August 1**, 1017 Miners' Bay Road. 8am – 3pm. Canadiana, Antiques, Post Cards, Old Records, Shells, Rocks and Minerals, Oil Lamps, Coins, Stamps, First Day Covers, Stereo Cards, View Masters, 50" Diameter Solid Oak Round Table with set of 4 chairs, 1860 Jelly Cupboard, American Civil War Books and Artifacts, Old Books, China, Collectibles, Household Items, Set of 4 Snow Tires on Rims (235/55R17 993), c. 1947 Model 2N Ford Ferguson Tractor in Running Condition, Seasoned Rough Cut Planks and Boards, some Live Edge, Mint Condition Ladies KHS Bike with 17" Aluminum alloy frame, disc brakes, less than 100 km, and much more…

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- Communicate repair procedures and findings clearly with Service Advisors
- Complete road tests and safety inspections
- Maintain productivity while meeting dealership quality standards
- Support overall service department efficiency and customer satisfaction

Qualifications:
- Valid Automotive Service Technician Certificate of Qualification (310S)
- Strong mechanical and diagnostic aptitude
- Valid Ontario Driver's Licence (Class G) with a clean driving record
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team-oriented environment
- Positive, professional attitude with strong interpersonal skills
- Ability to operate both manual and automatic transmissions
- Previous dealership experience preferred; GM training considered an asset

What We Offer:
- Competitive compensation based on experience
- Ongoing training and professional development opportunities
- Supportive team environment in a locally owned dealership

We do thank all applicants in advance, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
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al@currychevrolet.ca

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- Handle warranty, internal, and customer-pay work efficiently
- Maintain organized service records and follow dealership processes

Qualifications:
- Previous Service Advisor or automotive experience preferred (GM experience an asset)
- Strong customer service and communication skills
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- Basic computer skills and familiarity with DMS systems (experience an asset)
- Valid Ontario driver's licence

What We Offer:
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Thank you for your interest! Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
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The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires Multiple Citizen Appointments to the Joint Accessibility Committee

The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of local residents who help County Council make decisions about the programs and services provided to our citizens. It is County Council's desire for appointments to the various boards and committees to be reflective of the demographic and geographical makeup of the County of Haliburton. Currently the Committee is comprised of one elected County Council representative from each of the member municipalities. Qualified applicants to the Joint Accessibility Committee will be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of Haliburton County
- A public person living with a disability

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and application form. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **4:30pm on August 7, 2026.**

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details. In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

Class of 2026

Congratulations
to A.J. Butera on graduating with Honours, Honours Society and Ontario Scholar.

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OBITUARIES

Ivy "Joy" Chapple
Resident of Haliburton

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Ivy Joyce Vivienne Chapple (nee Bonar) who was born on October 29, 1918, in Bristol England and passed away on July 22, 2026.

Although we are grateful for the many years we shared with Joy (her preferred name), her passing is a tremendous loss to our family. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and mother-in-law.

Fondly remembered and dearly loved by daughter Debra (Ron). Also lovingly remembered by her grandchildren; Janice (Sean), Ronnie (Lindsay), Matthew, Bruce (Lesley), Sarah (Aaron), Brendan, Garreth, Kailan and Cyril. As well as her great-grandchildren Emma and Kendra, Spencer and Devin, Molly, Keira and Conor and Ivy-Joyce, and daughter in-laws Pamela and Lee Ann.

Pre-deceased by husband Cyril Harry Chapple (2006) and son Alan Chapple (2016).

Joy loved spending time with family, and her incredible storytelling was only surpassed by her amazing memory for details which was greatly enjoyed by all those who sat and chatted with her. In a recent article in the Haliburton County Echo published in November 2025 just after Joy's 107th birthday the article shared many details of her wonderful life. The final line stated – "for Joy Chapple her name is fitting: a life lived with happiness, gratitude and pure Joy". Our family cannot express this any better – always loved, always remembered and will be forever missed.

Visitation & Funeral Service

A Private Family Service will be taking place on Wednesday, July 29th, 2026 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the ***HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME***, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209. Visitation one hour prior. A private interment will take place at the Bowmanville Cemetery the following day. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Joy's honour can be made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.

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	3						8	
6	5							7
7				6	4	1	5	
				7	2			
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Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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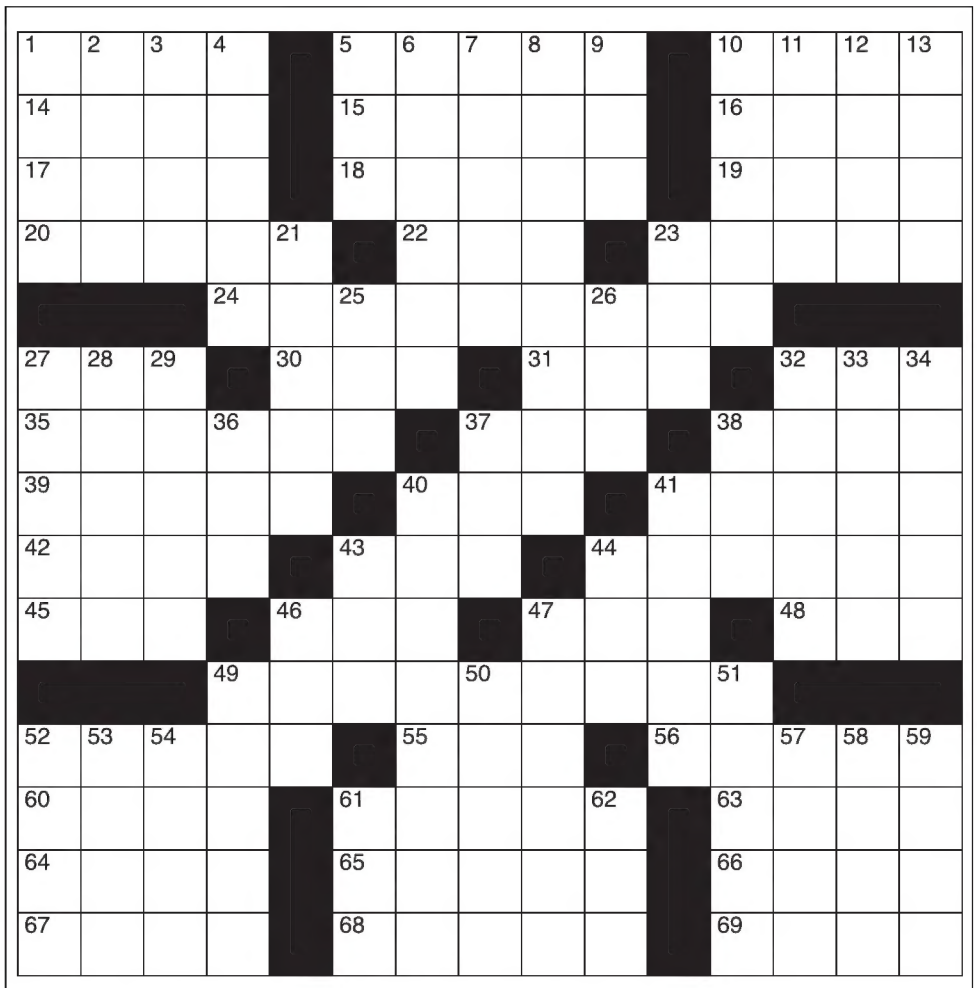
Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



CLUES ACROSS
1. Listen to
5. Presents
10. A type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Pretentiously artistic
17. Harness
18. Diamond weight measurement
19. "Better Call __"
20. Fervent support
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. Disposed to venture or take risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Women's __ movement
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. A princess can detect it
38. Tractor-trailer
39. Leslie and Leon are two
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Breaks apart
52. Hand gesture
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bract of floret of grass
63. Italian Seaport
64. Mars crater
65. Tube on a shoelace
66. U. of Miami mascot
67. South American nation
68. Video game series "Max __"
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN
1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek personification of mercy
3. Jewish calendar month
4. Family of long-legged frogs
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute used in Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Cease to stand
10. The bottom layer
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Part of a ticket
13. Defunct monetary unit
21. Challenges
23. Body part
25. Tell on
26. By way of
27. Shady green alcove
28. Egyptian city
29. __ and flowed
32. Widens a hole
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. "Be back later"
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large root eaten as a vegetable
41. Units of subjective loudness
43. Music genre
44. A way to drench
46. Popular hot beverage
47. Silk-like cotton fabric
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. Observational comedian Bill
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Take a chance
61. Semi-liquid food for babies
62. Consumed food

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Cottage Country Killers
Don't read this book when things can go bump in the night

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY
ECHO
The Voice of the Highlands since 1884

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Forest tax rebate change to have a significant impact

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Taxpayers across the Highlands could suffer a "dramatic" financial hit next year when the provincial government changes the tax rebate system for owners of private woodlands, municipal officials fear.

They say municipalities may end up with no choice but to turn to residential property owners to make up for the substantial tax revenues they'll lose because of the planned reforms.

"It's going to have huge implications in the Highlands," said Snowdon clerk Ernie Hills.

Hills recently invited a regional tax assessor to a meeting of the county's clerks and politicians to explain some of the proposed tax reforms that are set to take effect on January 1, 1998.

While there are many changes planned, among the most significant for this area is the province's plan to revamp the Managed Forest Tax Rebate Program.

Currently, owners of private woodlands larger than 10 hectares can qualify for a property tax rebate of 75 per cent, provided they have a management plan in place to direct logging the forest in a sustainable way.

Under the existing program, municipalities receive their property taxes in full and the woodlot owners receive their rebates from the province.

See ACTUAL page 5

PRICE: 84 cents plus GST - 90 cents

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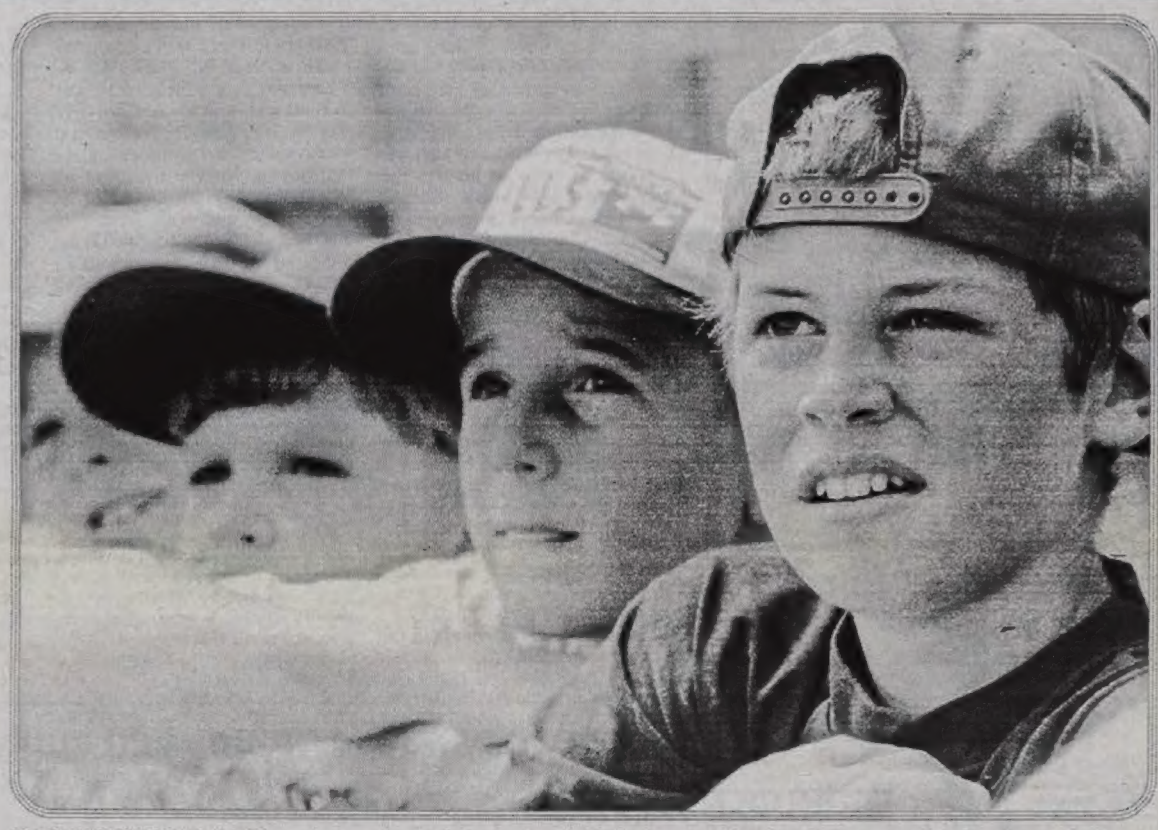

THE BOYS OF SUMMER: Sunny days, a baseball diamond; and one of the most familiar scenes of summer: (from right) Brandon Bowman, Jordan Miner, Adam de Carlo and Josh Townsend of Wilberforce watch a Gooderham player's ball as it streaks through the sky at the Harcourt ball diamond on Saturday. For more photos of the Loop Minor Softball League tournament, please see page 14.

County prepares strategy for the future

by MARIA CALABRESE
Staff Reporter

About 120 people from different sectors of the county attended Haliburton County's first strategic planning meeting at the Legion Hall on July 24 to share ideas about the future of the area, but they have a lot of work ahead of them to turn their ideas into practical solutions.

"Once you embark on a real, live, community-based strategic planning process it requires a significant, ongoing, long-term commitment, otherwise you might as well forget it," said community economics development expert, Dr. Chris Bryant, who facilitated the meeting.

The public consultation meeting had a broad representation by politicians, business owners, health service workers and others in various industries including tourism, forestry and the arts; 21% of participants were representing their cottager or property owner associations, 16% represented different agencies or organizations, and an impressive 42% were concerned citizens taking an active role in community planning.

About 72% of participants were residents of the county while 27% were cottagers with permanent homes mostly in the Toronto area. They, along with the guidance of Bryant and 11 local group facilitators, put their heads together to try form a long-term strategy for the county.

> *"It requires a significant, ongoing, long-term commitment, otherwise you might as well forget it"*
>
> **Planning consultant Chris Bryant**

There were some comments made during the meeting suggesting that the group was just too big to come up with real, workable plans instead of just rhetoric and vague ideas, but there seemed to be some agreement as to the main stumbling blocks towards building a better community.

The rivalry between neighbouring towns needs to be dismantled in order for all areas of the county to co-operate towards a successful future. The county also needs to build a more diversified year-round economy base apart from tourism, while plans should be implemented to better promote the area through marketing and taking advantage of resources that are already out there including publications, agencies and the Internet. Many also felt public transportation to and from the county as well as locally needed improvement.

According to the previous census, 25% of the county's population is over the age of 65, and with a glut of baby boomers retiring in the next decade, improved health services and affordable retirement housing were earmarked as trends that the county wasn't currently prepared to deal with.

And, providing social and employment opportunities for youth was also a concern voiced by a few younger participants who attended the nearly four-hour long session.

Building on the community's strengths is as integral to the process of strategic planning as trying to solve the area's shortcomings. The scenic area is

See WAYS page 4

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THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *As the Shoreline Disappears* by glass artist Brad Copping, will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 19. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Join us on Friday, July 31 at 1:00 p.m. for an afternoon screening of Paddington in Peru (2024). Presented in partnership with the Haliburton County Public Library. Free admission. Light refreshments will be provided, and guests are welcome to bring their own snacks.
- *Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg*, on loan from MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora will be on display at the Cultural Centre until August 29.
- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. for tours and self-guided activities! Stop by for drop-in activities for children each day from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. This week: Tues – memories showcase, Wed – Oobleck slime, Thurs – felt woven baskets, Fri – pipe cleaner flowers, Sat – rag quilt. For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

BID OPPORTUNITIES

The Township of Minden Hills currently has the following tenders available:

- RFP No. RDS 26-04 Minden Library Retaining Wall
  Closing date: August 12, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

See Bid Opportunities on our website for more information.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Township is currently recruiting for the following positions. Please visit our website for complete descriptions.

- Student Arena Attendants
- Student Recreation Attendants
- Roads Seasonal Labourer
- Waste Disposal Site Attendant
- Waste Facilities Operator

REPORTING ISSUES

Reporting issues such as road condition or maintenance needs can be done by calling 705-286-3144 Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. After hours emergencies can be reported by calling 1-866-856-3247.

THE 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION IS APPROACHING

To register and/or confirm your information visit the Elections Ontario Register Voter Portal www.registertovoteon.ca/

Election staff is available for assistance at the Administration Office (7 Milne St.) Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (excluding holidays). Visit our website for upcoming extended hours.

CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

August 22 from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Scotch Line Landfill.

Protect your personal information, reduce clutter, and safely dispose of old documents such as bank statements, tax records, bills, and other sensitive paperwork.

We also encourage residents to bring a non-perishable food or toiletry donation to support Minden Community Food Centre and help neighbours in need.

S.G. NESBITT MEMORIAL ARENA

- Drop off your child for our Drop-in of the Day program running next week on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Tuesday will be a crafty day, Wednesday will be spent making and eating in the kitchen, and Thursday is free play in the gymnasium or outside! Register beforehand online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation under "Other Drop-in" or sign-up day of.

- There is still space available in the two weeks of camp that are occurring in August at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Cultural Centre. Register online or in person at the Arena front desk.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

August 13 – Regular Council Meeting
September 10 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0
705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917
Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills @Township_MindenHills

U-Links visits MH council

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

The U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research has been making their rounds of the lower tier municipalities this past week.

Director Andrew Gordon was joined alongside Program Manager Frank Figuli to speak on behalf of U-Links to Minden Hills council at their meeting held on Thursday, July 23.

"There is likely to be a turnover at some council levels, which will affect County council," said Gordon. "So, we're here to ensure that there is at least a little bit of corporate memory in terms of what U-Links has done for you, what we're doing for you, and what we might do for you in the future."

Operating in Haliburton County for decades, U-Links has supported research in a variety of sectors including cultural, business, health, environmental, and more.

Gordon described the process to the council, saying that students receive experience as researchers while solving a problem for community partners or businesses.

Some of the community-based research projects listed that Minden Hills has benefitted from include projects on local pollinators, mapping public spaces, sustainable consumption, waste management, and even a study on the life of Andre Lapine.

Gordon said the Agnes Jamieson Gallery was the result of a study conducted in connection to U-Links.

For funding, Trent University has historically been their largest supporter. Gordon says that due to a drop in international students, Trent had to cut U-Links' funding by 30 per cent.

Now, Haliburton County is their largest supporter.

In recent years, U-Links has also begun offering fee-for-service work which has included studies on invasive species for Algonquin Highlands, phragmites study and removal in Dysart, and a microplastics workshop for Highlands East.

"There are lots of opportunities to engage with you," said Gordon.

Figuli explained that U-Links has been the main facilitator of analyzing water quality, assessing lake health, and monitoring invasive species across the county.

"One year gives us a snapshot, ten years tells us a story," explained Figuli.

If U-Links is able to collect consistent data, they are able to identify gradual changes before they become major concerns.

The final project Figuli discussed is the upcoming Community Safety and Well-Being Data Portal. The project will bring data on housing, demographics, health, and community support together into one standardized and interactive platform that can be used to identify trends and community needs.

"We exist to connect local priorities with the required expertise and provide communities with information they need to make confident, evidence-based decisions," said Figuli.

Near the end of their discussion, Gordon expressed gratitude for the ongoing relationships between U-Links and the local lake organizations.

Striking back against child exploitation

Through the Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet (Provincial Internet Child Exploitation Strategy), a joint initiative involving the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and 25 other police services, 63 individuals were charged and 51 victims were identified in the fight against online child exploitation.

As part of Project Time, a coordinated provincial effort to identify and apprehend those who prey on children, investigators targeted individuals making, possessing and distributing child sexual abuse material. Victims were also identified and safeguarded, with appropriate support provided to those impacted.

Project Time results include:

- 51 victims identified
- 63 individuals arrested
- 213 charges laid
- 814 electronic devices seized
- 264 criminal investigations conducted
- 154 ongoing investigations
- Two accused were in a position of trust and authority in their communities
- Eight accused were repeat offenders

Members of the Provincial Internet Child Exploitation Strategy recognize that law enforcement cannot combat these crimes alone. Parents, educators, child advocacy organizations, government and technology providers are essential in keeping children safe.

Further details relating to the accused and their respective charges are available in the attached Addendum of Charged Persons. Some of the accused cannot be identified due to a court-issued publication ban.

The Provincial Internet Child Exploitation Strategy police partners have noted a significant rise in reports of online child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse material in recent years. To learn how to keep children safe, visit Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

Anyone with any information related to child sexual exploitation should contact their local police or report it to cybertip.ca.

"Project Time is a testament to the dedication and commitment of law enforcement professionals across Ontario and Canada to protect children from exploitation. The results of this operation demonstrate the power of collaboration, the strength of the Provincial Internet Child Exploitation Strategy and the relentless pursuit of those who prey on the most vulnerable," said OPP Detective Staff Sergeant Tara Clark, Provincial Internet Child Exploitation Strategy Lead

Ontario's Provincial Strategy to Protect Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation on the Internet (Provincial Internet Child Exploitation Strategy) is comprised of the OPP Child Sexual Exploitation Unit, 25 municipal police services, the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Victim Services of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry and Akwesasne through the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. The Provincial Internet Child Exploitation Strategy provides a unique, provincially-coordinated effort recognizing regional needs and issues, as well as the challenges associated with geographically dispersed victims throughout Ontario.

Submitted by OPP